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Tony Paat



Office: Franklin County Municipal Court
Age: 52

Address: Galloway

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Website: www.PaatforJudge.com on Facebook at Elect Magistrate Tony Paat

Occupation: Magistrate, Franklin

County Municipal Court

Education: The Ohio State University – B.S.B.A. 1985 / The Ohio State University College of Law – J.D. 1988

Work Experience: Assistant City Prosecutor for the City of Columbus, OH – 1988 to 1994 / Franklin County Municipal Court Magistrate – 1994 to present

Family: Married with 3 children

Affiliations: Northwest Chapel Grace Brethren Church

Endorsements: The Columbus/Central Ohio Building Trades Council; The Fraternal Order of Police Capital City Lodge #9; Teamsters Local 284; United Union of Roofers Local 86; Rated “Highly Recommended” by Ohio Veterans United; The Columbus Dispatch

Bar Association Ratings: “Highly Recommended” by the Judicial Screening Committee of the Columbus Bar Association; “Highly recommended” by the Central Ohio Association for Justice. In a preference poll conducted by the Columbus Bar Association, 83% of the participating attorneys preferred Tony Paat for Judge of the Franklin County Municipal Court.

(1) List your judicial experience (courts & years).

I have served as a Franklin County Municipal Court Magistrate since 1994.

(2) What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I have 6 years of experience as a prosecutor and over 20 years as a magistrate in the Franklin County Municipal Court. I’m familiar with the type and volume of cases heard in this court. I have a good understanding of how the different departments in the court interact with each other and with other agencies. I understand that this court deals with a large number of self-represented individuals and that the attorneys who practice here are mostly sole practitioners or with small law firms. I have developed a discipline of maintaining a clean docket and issuing my decisions as soon as possible because I understand that it’s important to the parties to have their cases heard and decided in a timely manner. I believe that a judge has to be willing and available to listen to parties’ concerns in and out of the courtroom. As a magistrate I strive to be accessible to the parties, and I have made it a habit to promptly respond to their communications. In the years that I’ve served as a magistrate, I’ve shown myself to be patient, fair, firm, decisive, unbiased, honest and diligent. I make an effort to understand the parties, manage time well, put the interests of justice above any other and to know the law and apply it.

(3) Why are you running for this particular court seat?

I prosecuted criminal cases in the Franklin County Municipal Court for six years, and for the past 20 years I’ve served as a magistrate in the Franklin County Municipal Court. I’ve seen firsthand the difference a good judge can make in the lives of the people who appear in court. I’m seeking this seat because I believe I have the experience, qualities and desire to be a good municipal court judge for the people of Franklin County. I’m experienced in handling the variety and volume of cases that come through this court and have gained a reputation for managing my docket efficiently and professionally. Over the past 20 years, I’ve heard and decided hundreds of cases in the Franklin County Municipal Court. My desire for each case is that justice is served, that people leave my courtroom knowing that their case was handled well and that my decision is based on sound legal reasoning. I’m running for this seat because I believe I would be a judge who represents the Court well and instills confidence in the public that our system of justice is

open and accessible, and that it works.

Project Partners: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron The Ohio State Bar Association
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