

Arica L. Underwood



Office: Hamilton County – Common Pleas Court Judge, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas

Age: 47

Residence: North College Hill, OH

Email: JusticewithAricaUnderwood@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/aricaunderwoodforjudge/>

Occupation: Felony Trial Counsel with the Hamilton County Public Defender's Office

Education: Walnut Hills High School c/o of 1988; Tuskegee University – B.A.; University of Cincinnati College of Law – J.D.

Work Experience: 2008-present-Hamilton County Public Defender's Office; 2000-2007 LexisNexis; 1997-2000 Private Practice

Family: 3 children

Affiliations: Greater Cincinnati Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association; Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

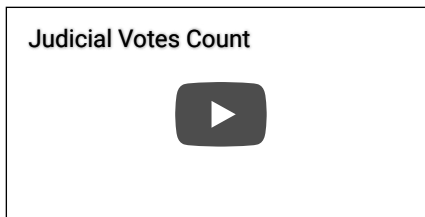
Endorsements: N/A

Bar Association Ratings: N/A

(1) List your judicial experience (courts and years):

I have no experience as a Judge, however I have practiced in all 16

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WHAT'S AT STAKE?

In 2018, Ohio voters elected judges to the Supreme Court of Ohio and all 12 districts of the Court of Appeals, as well as most courts of common pleas and county courts.

Election Results

2019 Voter Registration Deadlines

For Primary Election: April 8, 2019

For General Election: Oct. 7, 2019

[Register to Vote Online or Update Your Name/Address Here](#)

2019 Election Dates

Primary Election: May 7, 2019

General Election: Nov. 5, 2019

Polls are open on Election Days from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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courtrooms in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas.

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

The diversity of my background and experiences most qualify me to serve as Judge. I was a reference attorney with LexisNexis for 7 years. As a Senior Consultant with LexisNexis, I spoke with legal practitioner's daily and assisted with their legal research issues, as well as assisted with their use of the various legal software products they used in their practices. I also assisted other reference attorneys as they assisted customers.

As a Hamilton County Public Defender, I have spent the last 8 years practicing primarily in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas. I have practiced in every courtroom, in front of various Judges.

Additionally, I have watched other attorneys as they practiced in these courtrooms. I have negotiated with prosecuting attorneys and law enforcement officers. I have interviewed witnesses. I have had more conversations with clients and their families than I can count. I believe that these experiences give me the unique ability to listen and then make an accurate and fair determination about potential outcomes.

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

As a Common Pleas Court Judge, I will bring a balanced and committed sense of judicial service to the citizens of Hamilton County. I am hard working and will work every day to ensure that all citizens have an equal and fair voice. I believe that our Justice System although not perfect, is the best in the world. I understand that Judges are uniquely qualified to deal with issues such as mental health, addiction, overcrowded prisons, and overcrowded jails. Because of my diverse background, I can offer unique solutions to address these issues. I am polite, professional, patient and prepared. Additionally, I will be present and approachable, so that I can answer questions about Court proceedings and address issues as necessary.

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