

Candace Crouse



Office: Hamilton County – First District Court of Appeals

Age: 43

Residence: Glendale, OH

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Occupation: Attorney

Education: West Virginia University (B.A., International Studies, German); The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law (J.D.)

Work Experience: Federal Law Clerk (2000-2002); Private Practice (2002-present)

Family: I live in Glendale with my love, T.J., and our adorable Boston Terrier, Mollie.

Affiliations: Member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), Sixth Circuit ViceChair of the NACDL Amicus Committee, 2012-13 President of the Greater Cincinnati Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, Member Cincinnati Bar Association, Fellow of the Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Lawyers, Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, Faculty at the National Criminal Defense College

Judicial Votes Count



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.

CONTACT US



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Endorsements: National Association of Social Workers Ohio PACE Committee

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

I spent the first two years of my legal career (2000-2002) as a law clerk to the Honorable Frederick P. Stamp, Jr., U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia. During my two-year clerkship, Judge Stamp sat by designation on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, giving me the opportunity to experience judicial decision-making at the appellate level in addition to the district court level. I managed half of Judge Stamp's docket and wrote all of his civil and criminal opinions for half of his docket. While in law school, I had the opportunity to extern for Judge Algenon L. Marbley, U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

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

I grew up in Morgantown, WV, which ranks as the fourth poorest place in West Virginia. Going to school in a poor school district helped me to understand at a young age how fortunate I was. My family was by no means rich, but unlike many of my classmates, both of my parents had steady jobs with benefits. My mother was a public school teacher and my father, a U.S. Army Veteran, was an engineer with the Department of Energy. My parents raised me to value hard work, honesty, and public service. As a result, I make sure I use my law degree to serve people who are less fortunate than I am.

Although I am in private practice, I have made it a priority to volunteer my time to handle cases for the Volunteer Lawyers Project and Clemency Project 2014. I also regularly take state and federal appointments to represent criminal defendants who cannot afford a lawyer. I believe that everyone should have access to a competent lawyer to ensure equal access to justice. I have dedicated my career to righting inequality in our legal system, providing a voice to the voiceless, and ensuring the rights of all are protected in the face of an intimidating and complex legal system. I graduated from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 2000.

Following my time clerking in West Virginia, I came to Cincinnati and began practicing law. Sixteen years later, my resume includes work as a pro bono advocate, an appointed lawyer for indigent defendants, an associate at a law firm, and partner in my own law firm. I have extensive experience as both a trial lawyer and an appellate lawyer before federal and state courts. No matter if the case is a minor proceeding or a high profile, complex matter, I work hard and I am always prepared.

Beyond my work as a litigator, I am passionate about educating and training the next generation of lawyers on how to work at the highest possible level. I serve on faculty at the National Criminal Defense College in Macon, GA, the top criminal defense trial practice institute in the country. I have spoken at state and national legal conferences on various topics relating to criminal justice, and have also taught classes at the University of Cincinnati College of Law as an Adjunct Professor.

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

I am running for a seat on Ohio's First District Court of Appeals because I believe that our courts can strive to better serve the people of Hamilton County. My years of practice have made clear to me how the system works and what often happens when it fails. It is my goal to make the First District the gold standard for how an appellate court can

operate and serve those in Hamilton County. My time clerking for Judge Stamp shaped my outlook on law and how justice should be done. If elected, I will model my approach to law after his approach: diligent preparation, courteous handling of cases, and purposeful impartiality. It is my goal to make the First District Court of Appeals a more receptive, transparent, and informative court. No matter how large or small the matter is, every case coming before the court is seen as the most critical case in the eyes of the parties involved. I will work hard to ensure that the court is seen as fair and attentive to the litigants who appear before it. I will do this by working to modify restrictive rules that the current First District Court has placed upon itself. Unlike other appellate courts in Ohio, the First District places unrealistic page limits on the briefs filed by the parties and often does not permit reply briefs. Historically, the Court has been known for issuing short judgment entries in lieu of full opinions explaining why the court ruled as it did. As a result, litigants can be left unsure of why they lost their case and end up feeling like they have not had an opportunity to be heard. Public trust in our courts is vital to democracy. People coming before the courts expect a fair, just, impartial process where everyone is seen as equal. I am running to ensure that our local courts and judicial system live up to the high expectations people place on them. If elected, I will make sure our court prioritizes impartiality, diligent preparation, and thoughtful, compassionate decisions.

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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