

Dale Stalf



Office: Hamilton County – First District Court of Appeals

Age: 61

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Occupation: Attorney

Education: B.S.B.A (Accounting) from Xavier University (Distinguished Military Graduate; summa cum laude); J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law (Law Review; Order of the Coif);

Work Experience: Forward Support Platoon Leader, Battalion Motor Officer and Main Supply Platoon Leader, 426th Supply & Service Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Ft. Campbell, KY (1978-1980); Military Prosecutor, 1st Armored Division, Bamberg and Erlangen, Germany (1984-1987); Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel to the Secretary of Defense, The Pentagon, Washington, DC (1987-1988); private practice with Lindhorst & Dreidame (1988-2002), Buckley

Family: Married for over 38 years with four grown children, six granddaughters and one grandson (and a second due in July)

Affiliations: Cincinnati Bar Foundation (Board of Trustees 2012-present; Secretary (2014-2016); Treasurer (2016-present); Annual Advocate); Hamilton County Public Defender Commission (2012-2016); Beyond Civility Initiative (Steering Committee); Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Greater Cincinnati Chapter; Volunteer Lawyers Project (pro bono volunteer attorney and financial contributor); Supreme Court of Ohio's Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring Program; Xavier University's Williams College of Business Executive Mentor Program; 30-year member of Santa's Goody Bag Band, which raises money for local children's charities (www.santasband.com); Cincinnati Bar Association (Board of Trustees 2008-2012; Chair of the Professionalism Committee (2008-2012); Chair of the Veterans & Military Law Committee (2014-2016); Ohio State Bar Association; Kentucky Bar Association; Federal Bar Association; Roman Catholic

Endorsements: Hamilton County Republican Party; Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati (<http://crtlpac.org/endorse.html>).

Bar Association Ratings: Not Applicable

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

Not applicable

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

As an Army Judge Advocate (JAG), I prosecuted soldiers before general courts-martial for felony-level crimes. I also reviewed the administration of military justice and the processing of administrative discharges by commanders to ensure both substantive and procedural legal sufficiency and regularity. My first boss and mentor, Major Randy Parker, impressed upon me that our "first and only job" was to ensure that "justice was served" in all cases -- not only for the United States Army but also for the accused soldier. In 2012, I was unanimously appointed by the Hamilton County Commissioners to serve on the Hamilton County Public Defender Commission, where for the next four years I provided oversight and guidance for the operation of the Hamilton County Public Defender's Office. On the civil side, after leaving the JAG Corps and returning to Cincinnati, I was most fortunate to be hired as an associate attorney at Lindhorst & Dreidame. My boss and mentor at L&D, Leo Breslin, stressed that while "winning" the case for our client was what we were being hired to do, our overriding duty as legal professionals was to always do it "the right way": to zealously represent our client but to at the same time always be honest and fair to opposing parties and counsel and to the courts. I am the Chair of my law firm's Litigation Practice Group and espouse these same principles to every attorney in my firm.

For the past 30 years, I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants at the trial and appellate levels in a wide variety of civil disputes, including construction defects, breach of contract, products liability, employment practices, consumer sales and deceptive trade practices, lender liability, insurance coverage, bodily injury, wrongful death, property damage and medical, legal and accounting malpractice. I have also served on the Steering Committee of the Beyond Civility Initiative (www.beyondcivility.org), which promotes civility among community leaders, partisans and litigants as a more effective way to meaningfully resolve disputes. I have also been a mentor to young lawyers through the Supreme Court of Ohio's Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring Program and have served as a judge for high school and college mock trial programs. My broad and diversified experience in handling serious criminal, civil and administrative matters, from all sides, is unique and I believe makes me eminently well qualified to serve as an appellate court judge.

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

Judges are the ultimate guardians of our personal and property rights, and of our civil liberties, under the Ohio and U.S. Constitutions. Because so few cases are accepted for review by the Supreme Court of Ohio, the First District Court of Appeals is effectively the court of last resort for the vast majority of cases, both civil and criminal, that are brought in Hamilton County. I am running for this seat to ensure that the rights and liberties of the people I will be serving are vigilantly protected. As a trial lawyer representing both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide variety of civil cases for over 30 years, I believe that all litigants are entitled to a fair trial before a tribunal that is not biased for or against one side or the other merely because of their status as a "plaintiff", "defendant", injured party or tortfeasor. I believe that I have the judicial temperament and discipline to hear all sides of every case and to render a fair and just opinion based on the evidence presented to the trial court and the law.

As a former Army JAG prosecutor, and more recently as an advocate for the Hamilton County Public Defender's Office, I believe that all criminal defendants in Hamilton County deserve fair trials and, if convicted, should receive fair and appropriate sentences for their crimes. One of the purposes of a sentence is to punish the offender for the harm caused to the victim of the crime. But a fair sentence also must take into account any relevant mitigating circumstances that may justify a sentence other than a long period of incarceration. As a veteran I strongly support the Veterans Treatment Courts, and I also view the Hamilton County Drug Court, as critical to promoting the fair administration of justice via alternative sentencing dispositions. Finally, I appreciated the Commercial Docket of the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas that was managed so effectively for many years by Judges Beth Myers and Steven Martin. The quality and timeliness of their written decisions greatly contributed to Ohio's jurisprudence and promoted a healthy appreciation and respect for our judicial system and the notion that Hamilton County is a good place to set up and operate a business. I believe that I can and I will bring that same level of competence and diligence to the Court of Appeals.