

David Michael Ondrey



Office: Geauga County – Court of Common Pleas

Age: 66

Residence: Chardon, OH

Email: ondreyforjudge@gmail.com

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Occupation: Attorney

Education: J.D. Cleveland Marshall College of Law

Work Experience: General practice attorney since 1980

Family: Married 44 years to Ellen, three adult children, 5 grandchildren (all under 3 years age).

Affiliations: Former Board Chair UH Geauga Hospital, former Board Chair United Way Geauga, former President Geauga Bar Association, former Board Chair Birthright Lake County, former member Chardon Board of Zoning Appeals, Solicitor South Russell Village, former Solicitor Burton Village, former Solicitor Middlefield Village, General Counsel Geauga Park District

Endorsements: N/A

Bar Association Ratings: N/A

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

None

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

As a senior member of my county's largest law firm, I have practiced in multitudes of courts and administrative bodies, state and federal, throughout NE Ohio for 38 years. I have had numerous jury and bench trials, labor arbitrations, zoning appeals, and other contested proceedings, both civil and criminal. The subject matters of these litigated matters have run the gamut from torts to contracts to domestic relations to land use to insurance defense to eminent domain to labor and employment to OVI's to real estate to civil rights to both felonies and misdemeanors, and many others. My clients have ranged from the pizza shop owner, to evicted tenants, to injured victims, to business executives, to juveniles, to insureds, to some of this county's largest employers.

In addition, I have been law director for several municipalities for decades, as well as general counsel to the county park district. I have had extensive appellate work too and am an accomplished brief writer. While so engaged, I have also been Board Chair of the local hospital, Board Chair of the county's United Way, Board Chair of a local Birthright charitable organization, member of my town's Board of Zoning Appeals, and President of the County Bar Association. I am married 44 years with three grown children and five new grandchildren to entertain us.

These wide ranging professional and personal life experiences, especially my deep litigation practice, qualify me to conduct a fair and efficient courtroom; knowledgeable about both the technical and practical challenges of trial work. I have demonstrated the community leadership and personal skills critical to providing understanding, empathy, and judgment to those before the court. My writing skills will enable me to clearly articulate decisions when necessary. In my only prior effort to be elected to this same position, in 2016 I received the most “highly qualified” votes of the four candidates then involved in the primary race from the members of the Geauga County Bar Association in its judicial poll.

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

I have a passion for the law. Laws are essential for our democracy to survive. After a long and varied private practice, I want to bring the experiences I garnered from such private practice to help enforce and administer the laws that govern our legal system. I am running because it is time for me to step up and take on the challenge of a public service in a time of real need. The seat I am seeking is “open” due to the retirement of the current judge. Therefore in my opinion there is no one running with more experience and skill than I bring. I am running to apply my much needed experience to a very challenging and difficult job. And, I would consider being a trial judge to be a crowning achievement to my long career.

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