

## Deborah M. Turner



**Office:** Cuyahoga County – Common Pleas Court – General Division

**Age:** 64

**Residence:** Solon, OH

**Email:** [deborahturner4judgecuyahoga18@gmail.com](mailto:deborahturner4judgecuyahoga18@gmail.com)

**Website:** Facebook: Deborah M. Turner for Court of Common Pleas

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Education:** B.A. Cleveland State University, M.E.D. Cleveland State University, JD Cleveland Marshall College of Law

**Work Experience:** 18 years: Asst.Law Director, Prosecutor, Magistrate, private practice; criminal defense, civil, family and probate law.

**Family:** Married with 4 adult children and five grandchildren

**Affiliations:** National Council of Negro Women, Black Women's Political Action Committee, Infant Mortality Public Awareness Campaign, Avon Avenue Baptist Church

**Endorsements:** Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge, Black Women's Political Action Committee

**Bar Association Ratings:** 2.5 Judge 4 yourself

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

Bedford Municipal Court 2007-2014 Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court  
1999-2003



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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.

### CONTACT US



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

I have spent the last 38 years as a public servant. My listening skills were fine tuned as a public school educator for 20 years, providing young minds with the knowledge and guidance to be our leaders of tomorrow. As an advocate for individuals with disabilities, as my son with Downs Syndrome, I have developed a sensitivity to the needs of those who must work harder to have the laws applied to them in an equitable fashion. Many individuals in our society, especially the poor have no faith in the "Judicial System", for they see as "unjust." Their belief system has sent a message that those who make the decisions really can't see them as a person. During my 18 years as a practicing attorney, my representation of indigent clients as assigned counsel has allowed me an opportunity to engage conversation about "the system" and to gain insight from a different perspective.

As the prosecutor, I've had an opportunity to work directly with over 75 police officers in reviewing policy and procedures to ensure that we have safe communities while increasing positive community relations. The practice of family law has been instrumental in providing insight into family dynamics which are broken and need intervention to place them on a better path to wellness. The "Best Interests of the Children" has been the focus in my role as a Guardian ad Litem for children in Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. It is these interaction with individuals from all walks of life and a variety of circumstances which has prepared me for this time and place. I serve as a mentor for high school and college and law students, as well as young lawyers, always eager to share the knowledge and expertise that I have gained with others. Volunteering in the community to engage our senior citizens at a local skilled nursing facility with the Nation Council of Negro Women, engaging the public as part of a Infant Mortality Awareness Campaign or providing our young people with a second chance through the Juvenile Diversion Program. Interactions with our greater community has increased my awareness of the challenges and issues that are faced by victims, defendants, and attorneys on a daily basis in our court system. Judges must have the ability to meet people where they are in an effort to change lives.

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

The seat is an open seat being vacated by the Honorable Janet Burnside who is unable to run due to age restrictions. The General Division of the Common Pleas Court handles the most serious civil and criminal matters in our community. I've heard the cries from our community as it relates especially to the criminal matters and it is a deep hole in which people sink. The cries of the community are of a legal system but not a "justice system", Justice comes from people who understand the legal system both inside and out and have the ability to relate to individuals from all walks of life. Aside from a knowledge of the law, this requires above all else, listening skills.

The breath of my experience as an educator, guardian ad litem, and practice areas of criminal defense, family and probate law will enhance the view from the bench. I have practiced in this court and I see the need to have individuals who can be instrumental in changing lives by really seeing the people and their circumstances. Their is an old adage, "Hurt people, Hurt people. I want to be part of breaking the cycle of repeated violence in our communities and helping the residents of Cuyahoga County feel safe. Situations that bring people before the court is an opportunity for intervention to begin to peel back the layers like an onion to change lives. Individuals on the bench must be ready to

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roll up their sleeves and work hard to begin the process. Hard work and serving the public is an integral part of what I've done for the past 38 years. I have lived in Cuyahoga County my entire life and understand the complexities of the communities and the challenges.

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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