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Lisa I. Swenski

Office: Lorain County – Lorain County Domestic Relations Court

Age: 54

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Website: www.swenski4judge.com; Facebook.com/lisaswenski4judge

Occupation: Judge, Lorain County Domestic Relations Court

Education: J.D. University of Toledo

Work Experience: Judge, Lorain County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division

Family: Married 19 years to Zachary Simonoff

Affiliations: N/A

Endorsements: N/A

Bar Association Ratings: Recommended

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

Judge, Lorain County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division, 2013 to present. Domestic & Juvenile Magistrate, Lorain County Family Court, 2009 (Court was legislated out of existence.) Juvenile Delinquency Magistrate, Juvenile Detention Home, Lorain County Domestic Relations Court, 2005-2008

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

Several things about my non-judicial experience qualify me to be not just a judge, but a good judge: my personal life experiences with domestic relations law, to wit, a contested custody case after a murder in my family. I was able to see the good, the bad, and the very ugly parts of not just the court system but lawyers and litigants in general. I learned what I would never do as a lawyer or judge to the parties who are arguably under the most stress that they may ever be under. Another factor was my experience as a domestic relations lawyer practicing in the hostile, emotional, high conflict area of domestic relations for many years before I became a magistrate. I had a rigorous education and training both in undergrad college as well as in the U.S.

SEARCH

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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Army Intelligence School and I served in the private sector and for U.S. government contractors in investigations and security. All of those jobs required a good grasp of human nature, psychology, and behavior — all of which suit me well in my job duties as a judge in determining the best balance between compassion and firmness in any given case. I also served as a volunteer CASA/GAL when I was a college student at Lorain County Community College. Finally, my progressive views on juvenile jurisprudence and mental health, and my absolute unwavering devotion to due process, basic fundamental fairness, and allowing litigants their “day in court” qualify me to continue to be the Judge of this Court.

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

I am the most qualified person for this court seat. I have held the seat since being elected Judge 5 years ago. In that time, I have handled thousands of domestic cases and juvenile cases. This Judgeship’s docket is 4/5 domestic relations cases and 1/5 juvenile cases. In the five years that I’ve been the Domestic Relations Court Judge, I have brought greater access to the court, a willingness to listen to litigants and to allow lawyers to put on their cases, true due process and fundamental fairness and respect to the employees. I was an early proponent of Mental Health Courts and I preside over the Juvenile Mental Health Court.

Prior to getting elected Judge in 2012, I was a domestic relations magistrate handling contested custodies, divorces, spousal support, and child support cases. I was also a juvenile delinquency magistrate working at the Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home where I brought changes that were years ahead of statutory changes and case law: I refused admissions of delinquent charges by juveniles who did not have attorneys; I ensured proper court attorney appointments in these cases that all too often can impact the individual’s adult life; I refused waivers of counsel from juveniles as they normally are not knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily given; I conservatively used the detention home and refused to place borderline juveniles in to DH; I refused an ill-advised policy to have me – the neutral third party arbiter of cases – call ICE and notify them of undocumented juveniles as that was better suited to a prosecutor’s role: I educated juveniles and their custodians about what the law did and did not allow with “status” offenders; I ran a court that was well educated with respect to juveniles and trauma, i.e., what is now known as a trauma-informed court, etc. Prior to becoming a magistrate, I was a private lawyer who actually practiced Domestic Relations law, so I bring a practitioner’s perspective to the bench. Prior to becoming a lawyer, I was a litigant who went through the system and saw it up close and personal. I simply am the most qualified candidate.