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## Mary Jane Trapp

**Office:** Trumbull County - Ohio Court of Appeals, Eleventh Appellate District

**Age:** 62

**Residence:** Russell Township, OH

**Email:** [info@maryjanetrapp.com](mailto:info@maryjanetrapp.com)

**Website:** <http://www.maryjanetrapp.com>; <http://facebook.com/CitizenSforMaryJanetrapp>; <http://twitter.com/MaryJaneTrapp>

**Occupation:** Attorney, mediator, and arbitrator

**Education:** A.B, cum laude, Mount Holyoke College and J.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Law

**Work Experience:** 31 years as a litigator and appellate counsel and 6 years as an appellate judge

**Family:** Married with four step-children and three step-grandchildren

**Affiliations:** Past President of the Ohio State Bar Association; American Bar Association, Geauga, Portage, Cleveland Metro, and Ohio Women's Bar Associations; Ohio Judicial Conference Ohio Jury Instructions Committee Board of Editors; Board Member, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland; United Way of Geauga and Lake County, Women's Leadership Council member; Geauga Growth Partnership member and seminar leader; Member, Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist and St. Anselm's churches

**Endorsements:** Cleveland Plain Dealer, Warren Tribune Chronicle, Western Lake County Fraternal Order of Police

**Bar Association Ratings:** "Preferred" by the Trumbull County Bar Association, "Highly Recommended" by the Portage County Bar Association, and "Highly Recommended/Recommended" by 98% of Geauga County Bar Association

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

Eleventh District Court of Appeals Judge, term commencing February 9, 2007, and ending February 8, 2013; Administrative Judge, 2008-2009; Presiding and Administrative Judge, 2009-2011

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

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



[jvc@uakron.edu](mailto:jvc@uakron.edu)

My career as a practicing attorney before serving as an appellate judge spanned a wide range of notable experiences, from serving as lead counsel in at least 25 major appellate cases and 30 major jury trials, to being certified as co-counsel in capital cases. After my return to private practice in 2013, I have argued or consulted in over 25 major appellate cases, including case before the Supreme Court of Ohio.

In addition to the seminal cases of my career, I have had the opportunity to serve as counsel in over 100 arbitrations, small civil and criminal bench trials, at all levels of state court, including the Supreme Court of Ohio, common pleas and municipal courts, the Court of Claims; as well as being appointed by probate courts as counsel in civil commitment hearings including probable cause and full hearings. Most notably, I served as mediator, arbitrator, and as a guardian ad litem for children for the domestic relations court. On the federal level, I have had the opportunity to practice in the federal courts of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. I also had the opportunity to practice before both state and federal administrative agencies.

In addition to lawyering, a major aspect of my professional life included active participation in community service as a bar association leader and volunteer at a local, state, and national level. Now returning to the private practice of law, I focus my state-wide practice on appellate and trial advocacy in all areas of complex civil and criminal litigation and on providing mediation and arbitration services for attorneys, businesses, and governmental entities at the pre-trial, post-trial and appellate stages of a claim. I provide pro bono legal representation to low income families as a legal aid volunteer, and I continue my work in the area of judicial administration and legal reform as one of four collaborators on the Cuyahoga County Bail Reform Task Force Report.

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

Thirty-six years ago I took my oath as an attorney-at-law. In taking that oath, I promised to support our constitution and faithfully follow the law. As an attorney, I work in the trenches of our justice system helping ordinary people with their extraordinary problems, representing working families, children at risk, and small business owners in courts across the state from small claims court to the Supreme Court of Ohio. As much as I enjoy my work as a litigator, I found my calling as a judge. The position gave me a chance to bring my years of courtroom experience and my passion for the law to a position of public service dedicated to ensuring the safety of our families and preserving a fair and impartial judicial system. Never a day goes by that I do not appreciate the enormous impact that court decisions have on people's lives.