

## Monica Hawkins



**Office:** Franklin County – Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Division and Juvenile Branch

**Age:** 53

**Residence:** Columbus, OH

**Email:** N/A

**Website:** [ElectMonicaHawkinsforJudge.com](http://ElectMonicaHawkinsforJudge.com); [@ElectHawkins](#) - Twitter; [@ElectMonicaHawkins](#) - Facebook

**Occupation:** Assistant Prosecutor, Columbus City Attorney's Office

**Education:** J.D. Capital University Law School; M.S. Education Dayton University; B.A. Criminal Justice The Ohio State University

**Work Experience:** 30 year public service experience; over 24 years employed at Franklin County Children Services, 12 years as a Child Welfare Caseworker, over 12 years as a Senior Trial Attorney working specifically in Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Division and Juvenile Branch, extensive litigation experience, over 50 trials, termination of parental rights, safe haven, custody, abuse, neglect, and dependency cases, contempt hearings, annual reviews, and various motion hearings and complaints. Argued before the 10th District Court of Appeals; Federal Public Defender's Office, Capital Habeas Unit, Investigator; Children's Hospital Substance Abuse Counselor; Law Clerk in a Domestic Relations Firm; City of Columbus

**Family:** Single – One adult son (and wife), 3 grandchildren

**Affiliations:** Non-denominational

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

I currently serve as an Assistant Prosecutor for the Columbus City Attorney's Office in Franklin County Municipal Court Environmental Court. I also served Senior Trial Attorney, Franklin County Children Services in Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Division and Juvenile Branch 2000-2012. I have over 24 years of experience working in the Domestic Division and Juvenile Branch. I have extensive trial court experience, I litigated numerous trials, and cases included termination of parental rights trials, safe haven, custody, contempt hearings, shelter care hearings, motion hearings, review hearings, and various motion hearings. I have also served in delinquency cases, state administrative hearings, and adoption proceedings in Probate Court. I argued before the 10th District Court of Appeals. I served as a law clerk in a Domestic Relations firm.

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

I served as a Child Welfare Caseworker at Franklin County Children Services, specifically in Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Division and Juvenile Branch where I served children and families throughout our County. I provided services to Abused, Neglected, Dependent, and Unruly children, worked with families suffering from poverty, mental health issues, psychological issues, substance abuse issues, educational neglect, domestic violence, violence against children, and a multitude of issues and matters relating to children and families. I have served as an Investigator with the Office of the Federal Public Defender's Office, Southern District of Ohio where I was assigned to the Capital Habeas Unit and worked with clients/inmates on death row. In this role, I utilized my experiences in social work, trial advocacy, and my unique interpersonal and relationship building skills to develop trust and confidence of the client, client's families, and the victim's families. Through these cases, I aided in legal strategy, evidence gathering, and research. More importantly, this work demonstrates my unique interpersonal skills, partnered with a multi-faceted perspective, that are needed in the courtroom as a protector of justice, fairness, and integrity. I am well-versed with the court's specialty dockets and I have completed extensive mediation training. I was certified by the Children's Hospital Child Advocacy Center in child interviewing skills. I have extensive experience working with a population riddled with substance abuse, mental health disabilities, violence, poverty, and lack of resources. These victims are often in crisis and I have always treated each individual with mutual respect and

**Endorsements:** Franklin County Democratic Party, Franklin County Young Democrats, Franklin County Adelante Democrats, Baptist Ministerial Alliance of Columbus and Vicinity, Columbus Firefighters Union Local 67, Columbus & Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council, Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, A. Philip Randolph Institute, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Coalition of Labor Women, FCCEA, Ohio AFSCME Council 8, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 189, Stonewall Democrats, Teachers for Better Schools

**Bar Association Ratings:** N/A

dignity, I have acted with compassion, diplomacy, and human compassion. I know I possess the judicial temperament to effectively serve the public.

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

I am a life-long resident and public servant who possesses the education, experience, temperament, and skill set to serve in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Division and Juvenile Branch. I have demonstrated my commitment to our community both professionally and personally, I have been involved in numerous organizations and professional groups to effect positive change in our community and in the lives of children and families. I possess the compassion provide exemplary public serve to all. I have maintained civility and exercised diplomacy both inside and outside the courtroom. I have treated families with fairness, including sensitive to diversity, freedom from bias, and with impartiality. I have a passion to secure safe communities, preserve the family unit, protect children, and provide alternatives while preserving communal integrity. I have been honored to serve families in this community for decades, and I would be honored to continue my service as a Judge.