

## Pierre Bergeron



**Office:** Hamilton County – Ohio First District Court of Appeals

**Age:** 44

**Residence:** Cincinnati, OH

**Email:** PierreForJudge@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.VotePierre.com](http://www.VotePierre.com); [facebook.com/PierreForJudge](https://facebook.com/PierreForJudge); [twitter: @PierreHBergeron](https://twitter.com/PierreHBergeron)

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Education:** B.A., Centre College; J.D., University of Virginia School of Law

**Work Experience:** Former federal appellate clerk; Partner and Global Chair of Appellate and Supreme Court Practice at Squire Patton Boggs  
**Family:** Married with 2 children

**Affiliations:** Episcopal

**Endorsements:** Please check [www.VotePierre.com](http://www.VotePierre.com) for latest endorsements

**Bar Association Ratings:** N/A

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

While I have not previously served as a judge, the American Arbitration

Association (AAA) has appointed me as an arbitrator in several cases. An arbitrator is essentially a private judge who resolves disputes between parties to a contract, and who issues binding decisions that can be enforced in the courts. The AAA is the leading arbitration organization in the country, and I've been honored to be included on its



### 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)

panel. The AAA only selects a small percentage of lawyers for this distinction, and they must undergo an involved application process and training.

As an arbitrator, I have presided over arbitration hearings, made evidentiary determinations, interpreted contracts, and applied the law just like a judge would do. In two cases, my co-arbitrators appointed me chair of the cases involving a three-arbitrator panel, which was a distinct honor. My arbitration background, experience, and training will prove very helpful if I'm elected to serve the people of Hamilton County as an appellate judge.

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

My experience as an appellate lawyer handling over 100 appeals in my career makes me uniquely qualified to both serve on the bench and to help accomplish the change that is needed to make our Court a shining light in the State. I come from a background of public service—my father taught history, my mother was an Episcopal priest, one brother is a judge in Kentucky, and my other brother is a naval officer serving at the Pentagon. I am ready to take those lessons I have learned, both growing up and as a lawyer, to serve the residents of Hamilton County. I graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law, and subsequently served as a law clerk for Judge David Nelson of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. I then joined the law firm of Squire Patton Boggs and became the Chair of the Appellate and Supreme Court Practice Group.

In that capacity, I have argued appeals in federal and state appellate courts across the country, including twice at the United States Supreme Court. As a recognized leader in appellate practice, I was recently named Cincinnati's Appellate Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers, as selected by my peers. Judges have frequently named me to serve on court related committees, such as rule advisory committees, providing me a chance to work closely with judges and have a voice on how the court's procedures can be improved. Judges have also invited me to speak at judicial conferences on topics of appellate practice. I have taught at numerous lawyer-training programs throughout Ohio, generally on appellate practice, and I have published articles on those topics. I enjoyed the opportunity to teach at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where I founded the Appellate Litigation Clinic to allow law students the opportunity to assist in representing indigent clients. Beyond my civil litigation experience, I have won pro bono cases for indigent criminal defendants at the Ohio Supreme Court, the Kentucky Supreme Court, and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. I have also worked on several appeals with the Ohio Innocence Project, including two cases that led to the exoneration of innocent men who collectively served decades in prison. These experiences have granted me a deep understanding of the challenges facing our criminal justice system.

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

I have practiced nearly 20 years in appellate courts across the country, including Ohio's First District Court of Appeals. This experience has shown me what works and what doesn't in appellate courts. I am running for this seat because I believe that I can help bring positive change in the First District, making the court both more transparent and responsive to the citizens of Hamilton County. Specifically, there are two changes that will help render the appellate process fairer to the parties appearing before the Court.

First, the First District has a long-standing rule (not present in any other Ohio appellate district) that places restrictions on the briefs that parties submit. Changing this rule will enable the parties to fully

develop the arguments that they wish the Court to consider—in other words, their voices should be heard. More developed briefings will assist the judges in reaching the correct decision by allowing a full consideration of the matter before court. We should therefore bring the First District's rules in line with what all of the other appellate districts in the State do.

Second, a substantial percentage of the Court's decisions have historically been rendered with 2-3 page judgment entries. These entries often do not provide much analysis of the issues on appeal, often leaving the parties in the dark as to why the Court reached its decision. Win or lose, a party deserves a complete explanation for the Court's decision so that it knows that the Court seriously considered its case. Providing a more thorough analysis will also help lawyers and their future clients to understand the law governing this district, and this increased transparency will help instill a greater confidence in our judiciary. Nearly all the clients I've represented over the years believe that their case is the most important matter before the Court. And they are uniformly disappointed if the Court does not show them that respect. The First District is effectively the Supreme Court for Hamilton County (because so few cases can be appealed further), and its rulings greatly affect the lives and businesses of Hamilton County residents. If elected, I will work to ensure that every case, no matter how large or small, is treated the way that I would want my own case treated.

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