

## Sarah Thomas Kovoov



**Office:** Trumbull County – Trumbull County Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court

**Age:** 57

**Residence:** Warren, OH

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**Occupation:** Partner, Ford, Gold, Kovoov & Simon, Ltd.

**Education:** B.A. – University of Rochester, J.D. University of Akron School of Law

**Work Experience:** Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office, Sarah Thomas Kovoov & Assoc., Simon & Kovoov, LLP, Ford, Gold, Kovoov & Simon, Ltd.

**Family:** 3 adult children, 3 young grandchildren and elderly widowed mother

**Affiliations:** Member of Ohio State Bar Association, National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, Former President of Rotary Club of Howland Twp., Orthodox Christian Church of Mar Thoma

**Endorsements:** N/A

**Bar Association Ratings:** N/A

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

N/A

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

I bring a unique perspective to the race for Trumbull County Domestic Juvenile Court Judge. I've practiced law for over 20 years, 5 of those years as a Trumbull County juvenile and felony prosecutor. Much of my career at the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office was focused on prosecuting sexual abuse, child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse and domestic violence. I zealously advocated for those children who were physically and sexually abused and prosecuted their attackers/abusers. I was a part of the Child Assault Prosecution team, who work with Children's Services and the local police departments to investigate and prosecute child assault cases. While serving as a juvenile prosecutor, I ensured that juvenile offenders were held accountable. I dealt compassionately with families in crisis and treated their children fairly. As such I am highly trained in the many difficulties these extremely delicate family matters present. These issues are not only a matter for the criminal court, they are dealt with daily in the family court. I founded my own firm, and then went on to join a group which became Ford, Gold, Kovoov & Simon, Ltd., with locations in Warren and Cleveland. There, I advocate for juveniles and adults charged with crimes, where I pursue truth and defend their liberty. I have successfully fought for many people's civil rights when government entities over-reached and violated them and in one particular case, won a landmark decision. I have represented many litigants in the domestic relations and juvenile court. In 2018 alone, I have represented more than 10 cases in family courts across Ohio. I have litigated thousands of cases in criminal, civil and domestic court and tried more than 40 cases to a verdict. Perhaps most importantly, I was once a personal litigant in the domestic relations court. I understand the complexity family court and the influence it holds over individual lives, particularly children. These experiences have helped me develop the skills to understand and effectively manage the demands of a judgeship. This, along with my inherent ability to be calm, rational, and fair are qualities every judge must possess. I have not sought campaign contributions from attorneys and I am independent minded. Politics, favoritism, cronyism and backroom deals will have no place in my courtroom.

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

My years of experience in the areas of criminal, family and civil law make me uniquely qualified to be Trumbull County Family Court Judge. I see families in crisis in Trumbull County and I believe I am the candidate with the experience and ability to help. Trumbull County is my home and I profoundly care about this community. I have lived here for nearly 30 years, I have raised three children here and my elderly mother lives here. For me, Trumbull County is all about community and leadership its not about politics, it is about people. As a Family Court Judge, I will work to understand the impact on all families. I understand the system, the sheer nature of the work, and the impact my decisions will have. I will work to issue common sense decisions in a timely manner while working to keep costs down by controlling the courtroom. There are a few main issues I would like to address in Trumbull County Family Court including making the court more modern and efficient. I can make the following promises: I will be fair. My court will be transparent. I will be in charge, lawyers will not run my court. Lawyers will act with civility in my court. I won't allow parents to use children as pawns and the best interest of the children will be paramount. I am the candidate that will make a difference.

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