

## Terri L. Kohlrieser



**Office:** Allen County – Common Pleas Court of Allen County

**Age:** 42

**Residence:** Lima, OH

**Email:** [kohlrieserforjudge@gmail.com](mailto:kohlrieserforjudge@gmail.com)

**Website:** [kohlrieserforjudge.com](http://kohlrieserforjudge.com); Facebook: Committee to Elect Terri Kohlrieser for Judge

**Occupation:** Chief Assistant Prosecutor

**Education:** J.D., high distinction, from Ohio Northern University; B.S., magna cum laude, Criminal Justice from University of Toledo

**Work Experience:** Allen County Assistant Prosecutor for over a decade; Judicial Staff Attorney for Third District Court of Appeals; Judicial Law Clerk for Common Pleas Court of Hancock County

**Family:** Married with 2 children

**Affiliations:** Board Member of Crime Victim Services; Founding Member of Child Advocacy Center of NW Ohio/National District Attorneys Association; Ohio Bar Association; Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association; Allen County Bar Association/Christian

**Endorsements:** N/A

**Bar Association Ratings:** N/A

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

Although not a judge, I was a judicial staff attorney for 5 years at the Third District Court of Appeals and a judicial law clerk for the Common Pleas Court of Hancock County for 2 years. Both of these positions required me to review all filings in the court, research the law, advise the judges on what the result should be, and then draft the judgment entry or opinion for the judge's approval. This experience placed me in a unique position to learn and understand exactly what is required to make a legal decision from the judge's perspective.

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

For over a decade, I've been an assistant prosecutor, prosecuting all manner of felony crimes in Allen County. This means that I am in the Common Pleas Court on a near daily basis for many hours. As a result, I am extremely familiar with the inner workings of that court and what it takes to manage the courtroom and make judicial decisions. The bulk of the daily work in Common Pleas Court involves the criminal cases, which requires extensive knowledge of criminal law. Criminal law is quite complicated and a mistake can have dire consequences, such as allowing a murderer to go free. A judge has to be quick thinking, decisive, and able to research issues easily and thoroughly, often times in a short window of time.

Over the last several years, I have developed and honed these skills. In addition, I am faced with daily decisions on whether there is enough evidence to prosecute a crime, which requires that I be objective rather than result-oriented, a necessary skill for a judge. I have also been exposed to some of the worst things that a person can do to another. Many of the crimes in Common Pleas do not compare to those in Municipal Court. These take a lot of intestinal fortitude and that is definitely something a judge in Common Pleas needs. My cases are not easy; they require hard work, perseverance, dedication, and intelligence. These are all traits that a judge in Common Pleas Court needs. Further, I have extensive experience in civil matters of all types that come before Common Pleas. At the Court of Appeals I assisted the judges in determining whether the Common Pleas Court judges had made mistakes that needed reversed, which allowed me to truly learn what is required of a Common Pleas Court judge.

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

The role of Common Pleas Court judge is crucial to our legal system. In order to ensure fairness, order, and the rule of law is followed, a judge must be willing to make the tough decisions, even in the face of strong opposition. This can be very difficult when dealing with actual people, especially in a case that is emotionally-charged. The judge's decisions can have quite an impact on those who come before the judge, including life-changing consequences. The people of Allen County need and deserve a judge who will work hard, be fair, and who is able to make the tough calls, a judge who cares more about others than self.

As long as I can remember, I've only wanted to help people, to make a difference in this world. I went into the law to fulfill that goal, not to get wealthy or gain prestige. As a prosecutor, I've been able to do just that. However, what we lawyers do in and out of court does not matter if there is not a judge on the bench with the qualities I've mentioned, which is why I am running for this position. I have those qualities. I also have the right experience needed to preside over the Common Pleas Court of Allen County. Most of my life I've had to be strong, I've had to work hard for what I have, and I've had to make tough calls in emotionally-charged situations. In short, my path in life has given me what it takes to be a judge in the Common Pleas Court.

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