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David Michael Ondrey



Office: Common Pleas

Political Party Affiliation: Republican

Age: 64

Residence: Chardon, OH

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Occupation: Attorney

Education: J.D. Cleveland Marshall College of Law

Work Experience: 35 years general practice attorney, Law Director South Russell, Burton, and Middlefield Villages, outside general counsel to Geauga Park District.

Family: Married, 3 adult children

Affiliations: Former Board member and Chairman, UH Geauga Medical Center; former Board member University Hospitals Health Systems; former Board member Ravenswood Mental Health Center; past President Geauga Bar Association; past President Birthright Lake County; past President Lake Cardinal Inc (homeowners association); former Board member and Chair United Way Geauga County; member

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

None

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

I have practiced law for 35 years at Geauga County's oldest and largest law firm, Thrasher Dinsmore & Dolan where I have been a partner since 1985. As such, I have been exposed to a wide variety of civil and criminal matters, both in the courtroom and out. I have tried jury and bench trials throughout my career in state and federal courts in Ohio and have participated in numerous other forms of adversarial proceedings such as labor arbitrations, zoning hearings, workers compensation matters, NLRB hearings, EEOC investigations, Ohio Power Siting Board hearings, and other regulatory proceedings. The majority of my practice has been litigation oriented, but I have also represented management and unions in various labor matters, including extensive contract negotiations. I have served as outside general counsel to several of the county's largest employers, but I have also represented many individuals in a wide assortment of legal matters, both plaintiffs and defendants. I have done personal injury work, insurance defense work, negligence cases, contract disputes, discrimination claims, domestic relations matters, and zoning matters. Since the mid 1980's I have also continuously represented three different Geauga County villages at different times as their Solicitor, including stints of 15 and 20 consecutive years at two of those communities. I have served in a similar vein as outside counsel to the county's Park District for more than 20 years. While doing so I have

St. Mary's Catholic Church; former Board member First Merit Bank Advisory Board, NE Ohio region.

Endorsements: No local newspapers have made endorsements yet for any candidate. Five current or former Mayors of Geauga County municipalities are endorsing me, but announcement has not yet been published.

Bar Association Ratings: Geauga County Bar Association Ratings: Out of 78 responses: 39 ranked Ondrey "Highly Recommended"; 29 ranked him "Recommended"; 6 ranked him "Not Recommended"; and 4 indicated "No Opinion."

also served in leadership positions at several county and regional institutions, including the local hospital, the local mental health facility, the premier county charitable agency, the county bar association, a leading NE Ohio bank, a leading NE Ohio health care provider, a small social service agency, and a homeowners association. I believe the depth and breadth of my experiences over these 35 years renders me qualified to serve as a trial judge. I know litigation intimately, I have been through many public and hotly contested legal disputes for both private and public clients, and I know I possess the leadership and character traits necessary to make a successful courtroom officer.

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

I would like to crown my career by serving on the bench. My family and I have enjoyed the benefits of living and working in Geauga County for more than three decades. I believe I can contribute to the stability and well-being of the county where we have thrived by filling a public position demanding great trust, wisdom, and integrity. Having practiced so long in various courts around NE Ohio, I have been able to observe many judges and many trial proceedings. I believe the best judges treat the parties, the witnesses, the lawyers, and the jurors with great respect and patience. I aspire to be one of those types of judges: affable, approachable, open minded, and thoughtful. I believe I possess these qualities, along with a firm grasp of the technical and scholarly aspects of the law. I am running for this court seat in order to provide these skills to a difficult and demanding job upon which the justice system depends.