

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

SALEH AWADALLAH has been an attorney since 1994, and an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office since 1998 where he was assigned to the Appeals Unit. During his career Saleh has supervised the Major Trial Homicide Unit, the Major Trial Special Victims Unit and the General Felony Unit. He helped to establish and supervise the Crime Strategies Unit which was formed to leverage law enforcement resources locally and nationally and to implement intelligent investigation and prosecution strategies. He is currently the Supervisor of the Homicide Investigation Unit where he assists homicide detectives during the investigative stages.

Saleh has first chaired numerous jury trials, including child sexual and physical abuse cases, rape cases, and capital aggravated murder cases. Saleh has argued before the Eighth District Court of Appeals and the Ohio Supreme Court.

Saleh has lectured and instructed for the Cleveland Division of Police and other law enforcement organizations. He has also spoken across the country on various topics for the National Association of Attorney Generals (NAAG), National District Attorney's Association (NDAA), the National Black Prosecutors Association and the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association (OPAA).

Saleh received his undergraduate degree, summa cum laude, from Baldwin-Wallace College and his J.D. from Case Western Reserve Law School, where he served as Editor in Chief of the Canada-US Law Journal. In 2011, Saleh won the Prosecutor of the Year Award from the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office. And in 2015 he was awarded the Excellence in Management Award for Outstanding Performance in Leadership and Management, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office. He is admitted to the bars of the State of Ohio, the Northern District of Ohio Federal Court and the United States Supreme Court.

JUDGE MARY J. BOYLE was first elected to the Eighth District Court of Appeals in 2006 and reelected in 2012 and 2018. Judge Boyle continues to bring her passion for the law and commitment to justice to the appellate bench, where she was elected by her colleagues to serve as the court's Administrative Judge in 2014 and 2021.

Prior to joining the appellate court, Judge Boyle served ten years as a judge in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, General Division. While at the Common Pleas Court, she was instrumental in the creation of a Mental Health Court, where she also served as Chair, designated judge, and a member of its advisory board.

Judge Boyle was awarded the Golden Gavel Award in 2006 for her service in the trial court.

Before being elected to the bench, Judge Boyle enjoyed an active civil practice with the law firm of Zashin and Rich, LPA, where she litigated in numerous courts in Ohio, including domestic relations, probate, juvenile, general division, municipal, and federal. She also served on the Board of Zoning Appeals for the city of North Olmsted.

Judge Boyle developed her passion for the law and dispute resolution processes at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York, where she received her B.A. degree. Judge Boyle received her J.D. from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. She is a regular presenter of legal education.

Judge Boyle serves on the Executive Board for the Ohio Courts of Appeals Judges' Association as well as the Ohio Judicial College Court Administration and Civil Law and Procedure committees. She is also an active member of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bench-Bar Committee and a Board Member of the Cleveland Law Library Association. From 2008-2016, Judge Boyle served as Chair of the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission and Advisory Committee on Dispute Resolution.

Judge Boyle shares her dedication and enthusiasm for the legal profession in the classroom. She regularly participates in Ohio's mock trial for high school, undergraduates, and law students as well as Cleveland's Rotary Club's New Generations Conference and Recognition Day. She also volunteered in the 3R's program through the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association where she presented at Cleveland public schools.

ERIKA CUNLIFFE was raised in Boston, Massachusetts. She graduated from Northeastern University with a BS in Criminal Justice. She went on to attend Chicago-Kent College of Law and practiced law in Illinois for nine years after receiving her JD. Largely a legal writing and appellate specialist, she worked with criminal defense lawyers throughout Chicago assisting with state and federal criminal matters at the trial and post-conviction level. After moving to Cleveland in 2000, Erika became a staff attorney for Judge Chery Waite in the 7th District Court of Appeals until 2003. Before joining the Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office in 2005, Erika was part of a legal team that handled several capital matters. One involved clemency and late-stage federal litigation in an Indiana capital murder prosecution. The team was able to prevent the inmate's execution.

Erika has worked in the Public Defender's Appellate/Post-Conviction Unit for the last 17 years. She became Supervisor of that Division in 2021. The unit prides itself on applying creative approaches to appellate and post-conviction litigation. Over the years, the unit has worked with and mentored many student interns to foster ongoing interest in post-conviction work as well as that of the Public Defender's Office generally. Erika is an adjunct professor at Cleveland State

University College of Law teaching courses addressed to specific areas of practice in criminal law.

ROMIE DAHER has over 15 years' experience with Eighth District Court of Appeals, where she was privileged to serve the Honorable Colleen Conway Cooney and the Honorable Mary Eileen Kilbane, and currently serves the Honorable Mary Jane Boyle. Additionally, in between her judicial clerkships, Ms. Daher served as staff attorney to the Honorable Francine B. Goldberg at the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division. She has also served as Claims Counsel at Lancer Insurance Company.

She received her B.A. in Psychology from Ursuline College and obtained her law degree from the Cleveland State University College of Law.

JACOB DICUS has bachelors of science degrees in computer engineering and biology, magna cum laude, from the University of Dayton and the Ohio State University, respectively. He received his Juris Doctorate, with high distinction, from the Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law in 2009. Mr. Dicus joined the Eighth District Court of Appeals in 2009 as a judicial attorney and become a staff attorney in 2018.

TONI Q. FARKAS joined the Eighth District Court of Appeals in 2012. She received her B.A. from Cornell University and graduated summa cum laude from Cornell Law School in 1996. Toni served as a judicial attorney for the Honorable Kenneth Rocco from 2012-2014 and currently serves as a judicial attorney for the Honorable Eileen A. Gallagher.

Prior to joining the court, Toni was an associate at Thompson Hine L.L.P. and a partner at Frantz Ward L.L.P., where her practice focused on product liability defense, toxic tort litigation, and commercial disputes. She also previously worked in-house as senior counsel for Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc.

Toni was certified as an appellate law specialist by the Ohio State Bar Association in 2018.

JUDGE LISA B. FORBES was elected to the Eighth District Court of Appeals on November 3, 2020. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Forbes was a partner in the Cleveland office of the law firm Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP where she practiced in the area of complex litigation. As a litigator, Judge Forbes represented clients in state and federal trial and appellate courts throughout Ohio for 27 years.

Throughout her career, Judge Forbes has been an active and engaged member of the Northeast Ohio community including serving on the boards of the Centers for Families and Children and Circle Health for over a decade. She is currently a vice chair of both boards and chair of the Quality Improvement, Risk and Program committees. In addition, while practicing, she regularly wrote and presented on developments in and application of the law.

Judge Forbes graduated *summa cum laude* from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1992. She served first as an associate editor on the law review and then as Executive Notes Editor. Judge Forbes majored in public policy at Cornell University, graduating in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Judge Forbes is excited to bring her passion for and love of the law to the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

JUDGE SEAN C. GALLAGHER was elected to the Ohio Court of Appeals on November 5, 2002. Prior to his election he served as a judge in the Cleveland Municipal Court from 1997 to 2002. Judge Gallagher has forty years of direct experience in all areas of the Ohio justice system. He, literally, worked his way up from the “ground floor,” having started as a janitor, cleaning courtrooms at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court in the 1970s while home on break from Ohio University.

Judge Gallagher was a felony prosecutor in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s office from 1991-1997. He served three years in the specialized “while collar” Economic Crime Unit of that office. In the 1970s, he also worked with underprivileged children at the Metzenbaum Children’s Center in Cleveland and with incarcerated youth at the Youth Development Center in Hudson, Ohio. He served four years as a Probation Officer in Cuyahoga County and was Common Pleas Court Bailiff for six years to Donald C. Nugent, now a Federal Judge on senior status in the Northern District of Ohio.

Judge Gallagher served as Chairperson of the Supreme Court of Ohio’s Commission on the Rules of Practice and Procedure for Ohio Courts (2009-2010). He also serves on the Ohio Judicial Conference Criminal Law and Procedure Committee. He has been an instructor with the Supreme Court of Ohio

Judicial College for over twenty years. He also has served as an instructor with the American Bar Association, the Ohio Highway Patrol, the Cleveland Police Academy, and the Cleveland Browns. Lastly, he served as president of the Northern Ohio Municipal Judges Association in 2001-2002.

Judge Gallagher was named “Legal Eagle - Man of the Year” for St. Edward High School in 2005. He received the “President’s Award” for service with the Cuyahoga County Bar Association in 2006 and was named one of the Outstanding Alumni for Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 2007. In 2010, he received a “Champion of Justice Award” from the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys for his work in passing the new “open discovery” Criminal Rule 16. Additionally, Judge Gallagher was named as one of the ‘Irish Legal 100’ at the Irish Embassy in Washington D. C. in 2014 and was selected for the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Hall of Fame in 2022.

Judge Gallagher received his B.A. degree from Ohio University and his J.D. degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He is a graduate of (Lakewood) St. Edward High School. In addition to Ohio, Judge Gallagher is a member of the bar in Arizona. He is married, and he and his wife are the proud parents of one son. He holds dual citizenship in both the United States and the Republic of Ireland.

SARONYA L. GREEN is a Supervisor for the Criminal Division of Earle B. Turner Clerk of Courts Office. She has worked for the Cleveland Municipal Court for 30 years and has been processing court of appeals cases for the Criminal Division for the past 15 years. Saronya’s passion is to always give excellent customer service and to help appellants and appellees with what they need.

GREGORY HERCIK graduated from the University of Akron in 2014 with a degree in Criminology. Greg has been employed with the Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts since 2015 and became the Division Supervisor for the Court of Appeals in 2022.

Invigorated with his role at the Clerks office, Greg went on to obtain a degree from Kent State University in Information Technology with a concentration in computer security and forensics in 2022.

Greg currently lives in Lakewood, OH with his long-time girlfriend, Morgan.

JUDGE JILL FLAGG LANZINGER is a judge at the Ninth District Court of Appeals. Before serving at the Ninth District Court of Appeals, Judge Lanzinger

served as a trial judge for over seven years. She served as judge of the Barberton Municipal Court and as judge of the Summit County Common Pleas Court. Judge Lanzinger founded and presided over the Barberton Municipal Drug Court. Additionally, Judge Jill was a magistrate at the Akron Municipal Court.

Judge Jill Flagg Lanzinger graduated from Heidelberg College cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Political Science. In 2004, Judge Lanzinger received her Law Degree cum laude from the University of Akron School of Law. Judge Lanzinger was an associate editor of the Law Review at University of Akron School of Law, an honor reserved for students whose grades fall in the top 15 percent of their law school class or students who have demonstrated excellent writing skills. Judge Lanzinger served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Judge Alison McCarty in the Akron Municipal Court. Judge Lanzinger also worked at the Stark County Prosecutor's Office, handling traffic and criminal matters involving juvenile offenders.

Judge Lanzinger has been a strong advocate for abused children. She served as Guardian ad Litem in the Summit County Juvenile Court. Judge Lanzinger is a published writer on the subject of childhood sexual abuse litigation. As an advocate, Judge Lanzinger won an appeal at Ohio Supreme Court that enhanced the rights of childhood sexual abuse victims. As a private practitioner, Judge Lanzinger acted as counsel in numerous jury and bench trials at both the federal and state level. Her practice included research, writing, and appellate work, arguing before the Ninth District, Tenth District, and Eleventh District Courts of Appeals and the Ohio Supreme Court. Judge Lanzinger was a member of the Ohio Bar, Illinois Bar and was admitted to practice before the Federal Courts of the Northern District of Ohio, Northern District of Illinois, and Southern District of Ohio. Judge Lanzinger is a graduate of the Trial Lawyers College and taught at the Trial Lawyers College as a faculty member.

Judge Flagg Lanzinger is married to her husband, Dr. William Lanzinger, M.D. They have been married for over 21 years and reside in Green/Portage Lakes. Judge Lanzinger is an avid runner who has completed four full marathons and at least a dozen half marathons. Judge Lanzinger is active in her community, serving on the board of two charitable organizations, the Portage Lakes Advisory Council and the Polar Bear Club (Polar Bear Jump). Additionally, Judge Lanzinger is a member of the Portage Lakes Kiwanis, the Magic City Kiwanis, the Akron Rotary, and the Green Opiate Task Force. Judge Lanzinger is a member Akron Bar Association, Lorain County Bar Association, Medina County Bar Association, Wayne County Bar Association, and Ohio State Bar Association. She is also an Akron Bar Foundation Fellow.

JUDGE EUGENE LUCCI was elected in 2022 to serve a full six-year term on the Eleventh District Court of Appeals commencing February 9, 2023. Prior to this election, Judge Lucci was elected to four consecutive full terms on the Lake County Common Pleas Court, General Division, commencing his judicial career in January 2001. In that capacity, Lucci served as presiding or administrative judge for eight years, and was chair of the technology and security committees for 22 years.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Lucci was engaged in the private practice of law from 1980 to 2000 and was a founding member and senior partner of the Mentor, Ohio law firm of McNamara, Lucci, Hanrahan & Loxterman.

Judge Lucci is a retired police officer, having served as a police patrol officer for the City of Painesville and University Circle Police Departments, and later with the Lake County Sheriff's Office as a detective. He held membership in the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, and the Ohio Identification Officers Association.

He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Ohio Judicial Conference, co-chair of the Public Confidence and Community Outreach Committee, and as a member of the Ohio Court of Appeals Judges Association, and the Jury Service, Court Technology, Criminal Law & Procedure, and Appellate Law & Procedure committees. He holds membership in various legal and judicial organizations, including the American Bar Association, American Judges Association, Ohio State Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, Florida Bar Association, the Federalist Society, the Justinian Forum (an Italian-American bar association) and the Lake, Trumbull, Portage, Ashtabula, and Geauga County bar associations. Judge Lucci is a Commissioner on the Ohio Board of Professional Conduct, and a past member of the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Technology and the Courts, Task Force on the Unauthorized Practice of Law, and Ohio Jury Instructions Editorial Board. While a member of the Lake County Bar Association, Lucci served as its president, and chair of several committees, including the certified grievance, continuing legal education, judicial selection and endorsement, medical-legal, nominations, and law explorer post committees.

Active in the community, Judge Lucci has been a long-time member and served as president or chair of the Rotary Club of Painesville, Leadership Lake County, and several other community organizations and task forces. He was a member of various curricula advisory boards for Lake Erie College and Lakeland Community College.

Judge Lucci earned his bachelor's degree from Case Western Reserve University in January 1975, his law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in March 1980, and his Master of Judicial Studies degree from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2012. He holds a Certificate in Judicial Development, General

Jurisdiction Trial Skills, from the National Judicial College in 2004, and is an Inaugural Fellow of the Advanced Science & Technology Adjudication Resource Program, Washington DC, in October 2006.

Judge Lucci has been admitted to practice law in Ohio in 1980 and Florida in 1982, the U.S. District Courts in Ohio (1981), as well as the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals (1985), and the U.S. Supreme Court (1986). He is a certified instructor for the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in semi-automatic pistols, all legal topics, and other basic academy topics, and is a certified N.R.A. pistol instructor. He has also served on the adjunct faculty of Lakeland Community College, and is a lecturer for the Ohio Judicial College, American Judges Association, and National Center on State Courts on such topics as public confidence in the judiciary, ethics, media and courts, science and law, court technology, and court and judicial personal security.

Judge Lucci resides in Lake County with his wife, Amy, who is a nurse manager for the Cleveland Clinic, as well as a Concord Township Trustee. They have five daughters and four granddaughters.

SAMANTHA MADDEN is a judicial attorney for the Honorable Lisa B. Forbes at the 8th District Court of Appeals. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Akron School of Law in 2020. Prior to coming to the 8th District Court of Appeals, Samantha worked at the 11th District Court of Appeals as a judicial attorney. Outside of work, Samantha loves her miniature schnauzer Gus and has never turned down a piece of cake.

ROBERT MCCALED graduated from Cleveland State College of Law in 2015. He served as a clerk for a federal judge from 2015 to 2016, then worked as an associate at a major law firm in Cleveland practicing environmental and appellate law. He joined the Office of the Cuyahoga County Public Defender in 2017, where he has been a member of the appellate division since 2018.

JIM MCGLONE joined the court in 2011. He received his J.D. from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 2006. Mr. McGlone served the Honorable Eileen A. Gallagher as a staff attorney at the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas from 2007 to 2011 and as a judicial attorney at the Eighth District Court of Appeals from 2011 to 2018. Mr. McGlone became the en banc staff attorney for the court in January of 2019. Mr. McGlone was certified as an appellate law specialist by the Ohio State Bar Association in 2019.

COLLEEN MOUNTCASTLE is a partner in Burns White's Appellate, Mass Torts and Transportation practice groups. She is a certified as an Appellate Law Specialist by the Ohio State Bar Association, and represents clients in original, post-trial and appellate proceedings in the Supreme Courts of the United States, Ohio, and Michigan. In addition, Ms. Mountcastle has extensive experience defending railroad companies, transportation companies, manufacturers and suppliers in cases involving personal injury, wrongful death, occupational injury and product liability.

Ms. Mountcastle graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, and received her B.A., cum laude, from the University of Dayton.

DAVID F. PARCHEM has been with the court since 1990 as a Staff Attorney. He received his B.A., summa cum laude, and J.D. from the University of Notre Dame.

Following admission to the Bar in 1980, he was Law Clerk for District Court Judge John M. Manos, associate with the firm of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, associate with the firm of Ward, Marein and Gillette and in private practice.

JUDGE ROBERT PATTON was appointed to serve on the Eleventh District Court of Appeals on May 19, 2023, to begin a term commencing on June 5, 2023. Prior to his appointment, Judge Patton served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio in Cleveland from 2006 until 2023. Judge Patton served as Chief of the Violent Crimes Unit from 2017 until 2022 where he was responsible for supervising the prosecution of federal violent crimes and firearms cases. In 2022, Judge Patton was named Senior Litigation Counsel focused on the prosecution of federal criminal tax matters investigated by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division.

Judge Patton successfully tried numerous federal cases concentrating on white-collar matters, including bribery, bank fraud, mortgage fraud, securities fraud, mail fraud, wire fraud, tax evasion, money laundering, car-jacking, and Hobbs Act violations. These cases involved collaborating with the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division; the United States Department of Labor – Office of Inspector General; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, Department of Justice – Office of Inspector General, and Explosives; the United States Secret Service; and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

Notably, Judge Patton obtained guilty verdicts in the first Cuyahoga County federal public corruption case trial involving construction bid contracts at Metro-General Hospital and a jury trial of members of the Heartless Felons street gang who committed a series of car-jackings in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood during the summer of 2015. Judge Patton also successfully prosecuted a Cleveland Police Officer for cocaine trafficking after completing a wire-tap investigation. On appeal, these matters were affirmed before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

In 2013, Judge Patton received the United States Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for his role in prosecuting the Cuyahoga County public corruption cases and the Internal Revenue Service's Excellence Award. In 2017, the United States Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Bronze Medal for Commendable Service to Judge Patton. The United States Attorney's Office also named Judge Patton its Advocate of the Month and Special Act Award recipient on multiple occasions. The Executive Office for United States Attorneys appointed Judge Patton to serve as Special Attorney in the Eastern District of Michigan to investigate public corruption, bank fraud, and threats against Assistant United States Attorneys.

Prior to his tenure with the United States Department of Justice, Judge Patton was an Assistant Prosecutor for the Lake County Prosecutor's Office where he was lead counsel on over 45 jury trials. He focused on white-collar crimes, racketeering influenced corrupt organization (RICO), money laundering, sex crimes, vehicular homicides, and attempted murders.

Upon graduating from Cleveland State University's College of Law, Judge Patton was a Judicial Law Clerk to Judge Paul H. Mitrovich of the Lake County Common Pleas Court with the primary responsibility of managing the Court's civil docket.

Until his resignation on May 31, 2023, Judge Patton was President of Council for the City of Willowick for over 10 years. Previously, he was a Member of Council for Ward 3 from 2005 until 2013. Judge Patton was elected to five consecutive full terms to the City of Willowick's City Council.

Judge Patton earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Cleveland State University in 1990, his Master of Arts degree in Philosophy from Cleveland State University in 1993, and Juris Doctorate from Cleveland State University's College of Law in 1996. While in law school, Judge Patton was appointed to the Moot Court Board of Governors and competed on the National Moot Court team winning awards for Best Ohio Team and Best Respondent's Brief. In 1986, Judge Patton graduated from Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland.

Judge Patton has been admitted to practice law in Ohio and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio since 1996 and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in 2006. He is a member of the Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage and Trumbull County Bar Associations. Judge Patton presently sits as a Board Member for the Lake County Blue Coats, a charitable organization that recognizes extraordinary acts of Law Enforcement Officers.

Judge Patton resides in Lake County with his wife of 27 years, Lisa, who teaches Latin and is the Chair of Westlake High School's World Language Department, and is a leader in Lake County politics. They have three daughters and two Wheaten Terriers.

ANDREW S. POLLIS is a Professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. He teaches Evidence and directs the Appellate Litigation Clinic (part of the Milton and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic Center), where he supervises third-year students representing clients in Ohio and federal appellate courts. He previously ran the Civil Litigation Clinic. He also coordinates the School of Law's appellate-practice and moot-court programs, and he coaches students participating in national moot-court competitions.

Before accepting his appointment at Case Western, Professor Pollis was a partner in the Cleveland-based law firm of Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, which he joined in 1990 after graduating *cum laude* from Harvard Law School. While in private practice he argued numerous cases in appellate courts throughout the country and was included in the BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA for his work as an appellate lawyer. In 2008 he became one of the first 11 attorneys to be certified as a specialist in appellate law by the Ohio State Bar Association. He also has extensive trial experience, amassing verdicts totaling over \$560 million since 2003.

In addition to co-authoring the annual editions of OHIO APPELLATE PRACTICE since 2008, Professor Pollis has published law-review articles on appellate procedure, including *The Need for Non-Discretionary Interlocutory Appellate Review in Multidistrict Litigation*, 79 FORDHAM LAW REV. 1643 (2011); *Rule 54(b): Seventy-Five and Ready for Retirement*, 65 FLA. LAW REV. 711 (2013); *Fixing the Broken System of Assessing Criminal Appeals for Frivolousness*, 53 AKRON L. REV. 481 (2020); and *The Appellate Judge as the Thirteenth Juror: Combating Implicit Bias in Criminal Convictions*, 95 TEMPLE L. REV. 1 (2022). He also writes in the area of evidence and trial procedure.

Professor Pollis has served as a member and chair of the Supreme Court Commission on the Rules of Practice and Procedure. He is also active in appellate

bar associations at the local, state, and national levels. He has co-chaired the Appellate Practice Committee and *Amicus Curiae* Briefs Committee of the ABA Section of Litigation, founded the Ohio State Bar Association Appellate Practice Committee and served as its first chair, and was one of the founders of the Council of Appellate Lawyers, an arm of the ABA Judicial Division Appellate Judges Conference. He is a former chair of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's Appellate Courts Committee. He also lectures frequently on issues related to appellate practice.

JE'NINE RANDALL-NICKERSON was appointed as the Director of the Clerk of Court for the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court in March of 2021. Prior to that she served as a Magistrate and later Court Administrator/Clerk of Court for the Garfield Heights Municipal Court from 2019 to 2021. She also served as a delinquency Magistrate at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court from 2013 to 2018. Her professional experience also includes serving as a Municipal and County Prosecutor, and as defense counsel and Guardian ad litem while in private practice. Je'Nine obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Masters in Business Administration from Case Western Reserve University and a Juris Doctorate from Cleveland Marshall College of Law.

JUDGE MICHELLE J. SHEEHAN was elected to the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals on November 6, 2018.

Prior to being elected to the court of appeals, Judge Sheehan was a shareholder at a large litigation firm. She litigated cases in both state and federal courts on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants for over 25 years. She is one of 28 attorneys throughout the state of Ohio who is a certified appellate specialist by the Ohio State Bar Association. She has represented clients in appellate matters before the Ohio Supreme Court, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and almost every appellate district in the state of Ohio.

Judge Sheehan has served in various leadership roles within the community. She is a former President of the Ohio Women's Bar Association and has held various leadership roles in local organizations including the CMBA, YWCA, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, and Rocky River Civil Service Commission, amongst others.

Judge Sheehan received her bachelor's degree from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and her Juris Doctor degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, where she met her husband, the Honorable Brendan J. Sheehan. She is also a member of the Florida Bar.

AMANDA STEVE is a Cleveland native and Dayton Flyer. She began her career as a paralegal before deciding to attend law school. Amanda continued to work full time in the legal field while she attended evening classes at Cleveland State University's College of Law. During law school, Amanda participated in an externship under the Honorable Judge Eileen T. Gallagher at the 8th District Court of Appeals. After passing the bar exam in 2020, Amanda practiced civil litigation before returning to the 8th District in 2023, where she currently works as a judicial attorney for the Honorable Judge Mary Jane Boyle.

JUDGE SCOT A. STEVENSON graduated from the University of Akron Honors College in 1988 and obtained his Juris Doctorate Degree in 1992. While at the University of Akron, he worked for Judge Bill Spicer in the Summit County Probate Court. After graduating from law school, he was a staff attorney/judicial law clerk for Judge John Reece of the Ninth District Court of Appeals.

After working at the Ninth District Court of Appeals, Judge Stevenson began a career in the private practice of law. Initially he practiced in Barberton, Ohio. In 1996, he was appointed a Magistrate in the Barberton Municipal Court hearing small claims and traffic matters. After serving there for two years, he was appointed a hearing officer for the State of Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, hearing disputes between automobile dealers and manufacturers. In 2000, he joined a legal practice in Akron and practiced there, and served from 2011 until 2014 as a Magistrate in the Cuyahoga Falls Mayor's Court hearing traffic and criminal matters, until appointed as a Summit County Court of Common Pleas Judge in 2016.

In private practice, Judge Stevenson, practiced in the areas of general civil litigation, criminal law, family law, and estate planning. He had an extensive experience in appellate practice and argued before local Courts of Appeal and the Ohio Supreme Court. Three times he received the Volunteer Legal Services Program's Pro Bono Attorney of the Year for his work and dedication representing low-income citizens of Summit County. He also has served as the Law director for Twinsburg Township from 2011 until his appointment as a Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge in 2016. Judge Katarina Cook appointed him as a Magistrate of the Summit County Domestic Relations Court in January 2017, and he was named Chief Magistrate at that Court in January 2021.

Judge Stevenson also has served our community over the last two decades. He has been a member and chairperson of both the Barberton Public Library and the Akron Law Library Boards. He served on the Summit County Facilities Review Board, a Board which examines and reports on local prisons and Community Based Correctional Facilities. He was a member and Vice-President of the

Barberton Area Salvation Army Advisory Board. Serving these organizations has been a source of pride and accomplishment for Judge Stevenson over the years. Judge Stevenson is a member of the Akron Bar Association, Lorain County Bar Association, Medina County Bar Association, Wayne County Bar Association, and Ohio State Bar Association. Judge Stevenson was born and raised in Summit County. He has been married to his wife, Diana Stevenson, for over twenty years and they are the proud parents of two adult children.

DANIEL VAN has been an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office since 2009 and is currently the Assistant Supervisor of the Office's Appeals Unit. He represents the State of Ohio on behalf of the Prosecutor's Office in post-conviction and appellate litigation. Daniel has extensive experience litigating constitutional issues, evidentiary matters, and questions involving statutory interpretation before appellate courts.

Daniel frequently litigates before the Eighth District Court of Appeals and has argued 24 cases in the Ohio Supreme Court. He is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law and is an OSBA Certified Specialist in Appellate Law.

CANDACE WAHBA has been a judicial attorney for the Honorable Frank Daniel Celebrezze III at the Eighth District Court of Appeals since 2022. She attended undergraduate school at Denison University and law school at the Cleveland State College of Law. During law school, Candace was a member of the Cleveland State Law Review and completed an externship for the Honorable Cassandra Collier-Williams. She graduated and passed the bar in 2020 and began her career practicing at a firm specializing in personal injury.

HEATHER ZIRKE is the Principal of The Zirke Law Firm concentrating in lawyer professional responsibility and legal ethics. She represents lawyers in grievance investigations and bar applicants in character and fitness matters. Heather also serves as an expert witness in legal malpractice cases. She is the Interim Director of the Miller Becker Center for Professional Responsibility and Senior Lecturer at the University of Akron School of Law. She can be reached at heather@zirkelaw.com.