

Judge Michael J. Ryan

mryan@cuyahogacounty.us work email

LEGAL EDUCATION

CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW

Cleveland, Ohio

Received Juris Doctor in May of 1996

Admitted to the Ohio Bar in November of 1996

Admitted to the U.S. District Court-Northern District of Ohio in August of 2000

Honors: LOUIS STOKES SCHOLARSHIP
CLEVELAND-MARSHALL ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Activities: Black Law Students Association
Adopt- A- School Program
Cleveland-Marshall Work a Day Program Participant

PRE-LEGAL EDUCATION

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

Meadville, Pennsylvania

Received Bachelor of Arts in English in May of 1993

Minor Political Science

Honors: NANCY SUTTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Athletic Honor Roll Scholar

Activities: President of the Advancement of Black Culture
Senator for the Allegheny Student Government
Four year Letterman in Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Graduated with Honors in 1989 with emphasis on College Preparatory Courses

Honors: Jon Lewis Memorial Scholarship Recipient
2004 Cleveland Heights Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee

Activities: German Club
Two year Letterman for Football
Letterman in Outdoor Track & Field

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF
COMMON PLEAS- JUVENILE DIVISION**

Cleveland, Ohio

JUDGE

December 10, 2012-Present

Elected judge for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas-Juvenile Division to complete the expired term of the late Judge Sikora. I was then elected to a full six year term in 2016. I preside over all felony and misdemeanor delinquent charges filed against minors in Cuyahoga County. I am also required to adjudicate issues of abuse, neglect and dependency filed against a minor's parents or guardians. Additionally, I am required to determine issues of paternity, custody and child support for unmarried parents. Lastly, I preside over Jane Doe cases that result from a pregnant young lady who seeks non-parental consent for an abortion.

CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL COURT

Cleveland, Ohio

JUDGE

January 5, 2006- December 9, 2012

Elected judge for the Cleveland Municipal Court (two six year terms) to preside over all cases, except those designated specifically for the presiding and administrative judge, for which the Ohio Revised Code authorized Municipal Courts to have original jurisdiction. I hear and dispose of misdemeanor offenses committed in the City of Cleveland or preside over jury trials that are held to dispose of misdemeanor offense that are classified as fourth degree or higher. I set bonds and preside over preliminary hearings for individuals charged with felony offenses. Moreover, I also have the authority to hear, dispose of and preside over jury trials for civil matters where the complaining party is seeking less than \$15,000. Lastly, I possess, via a vote among the 12 judges in the general division, the ability to hire, terminate and discipline employees.

CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL COURT

Cleveland, Ohio

MAGISTRATE

September 2001- January 4, 2006

Preside over hearings that are referred by the twelve judges of the General Division of the Cleveland Municipal Court. I heard and issued written decisions on small claim cases, default judgments, garnishment issues, post judgment matters and administrative license suspension appeals. I also provided assistance as a substitute Magistrate for traffic and criminal misdemeanor arraignment, which includes setting bonds and conducting hearings on motions for temporary protection orders. Additionally, I presided, at the request of several of the twelve Judges, over their personal criminal and civil dockets. I was permitted to hear and make decisions regarding guilt or acquittal for minor misdemeanors and fourth degree thru first-degree misdemeanors when both parties consent to my hearing the matter. I also, with the Judge's approval, was permitted to make decisions on liability, including presiding over civil jury trials. I made recommendations to the Judge regarding potential penalties if any for criminal misdemeanor convictions. Additionally, I was responsible for conducting research assignments, making recommendations and drafting proposed entries for the Judges to review and confirm.

FORBES, FIELDS & ASSOCIATES CO., L.P.A.

Cleveland, Ohio

ASSOCIATE

August 2000-September 2001

Engaged in the practice of law in varied number of fields including but not limited to personal injury, corporate, municipal, criminal defense, domestic relations, employment and governmental bonds. Active in motion practice, participated in depositions, arbitrations, prepared interrogatories, drafted legislation, drafted bonds and tried several cases.

CITY OF CLEVELAND LAW DEPARTMENT

Cleveland, Ohio

ASSISTANT CITY PROSECUTOR

January 1997- February 1998

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE/ CRIMINAL DIVISION

May 1999-August 2000

Prosecuted all misdemeanors committed in the City of Cleveland. Responsible for daily docket of assigned Municipal Judge, which are large as 90- 120 defendants each day. I possessed complete autonomy as trial attorney in both jury (over ten) and bench trials (over 300). Also, responsible for reviewing complaints by patrol officers and detectives to determine whether to issue charges for misdemeanors and or felonies.

CITY OF CLEVELAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATOR
Cleveland, Ohio February 1998-May 1999

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Responsible for managing the daily activities of the Office of Professional Standards. The Office of Professional Standards processes and causes the investigation of complaints made by citizens against employees of the Division of Police for the City of Cleveland. Responsible for supervising two civilian staff members and four investigating officers. Also, functioned as the advisor to the Civilian Police Review Board. Reviewed completed investigations and made recommendations to the Civilian Police Review Board members.

CITY OF CLEVELAND LAW DEPARTMENT

Cleveland, Ohio
CIVIL DIVISION

LAW CLERK

February 1995- January 1997

Participated in various legal areas with an emphasis on employment, tort, and litigation issues. Drafted memorandum of law, court motions, legislation and other legal opinions. Also, attended and participated in depositions and arbitrations.

CITY OF CLEVELAND LAW DEPARTMENT

Cleveland, Ohio

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE/ CRIMINAL DIVISION

MEDIATOR

March 1994- February 1995

Responsible for the initial intake interview of citizens who made complaints about alleged criminal behavior. After performing intake interview, reviewed it with the Assistant Prosecutor to determine if criminal charges were issued. Also, served as a mediator between the complainant and the alleged perpetrator when the prosecutor determined that no criminal charges were warranted.

PRE-LEGAL EXPERIENCE

GEORGIA STATE EMPLOYEES UNION

Atlanta, Georgia

Responsible for managing the campaign activities of the union for its endorsed candidates. Supervised both the executive staff and 70 union members in distributing campaign literature, posting campaign signs, phone-a-thons, and shuttle service to the voting polls. Instrumental in obtaining 45% of the votes for two unknown candidates whom sought office against two long time incumbents.

POLITICAL COORDINATOR

June 1992- August 1992

PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE

Cleveland, Ohio

Edited billing statements for the entire state of New Jersey. Responsible for ensuring that bills were mailed to the customers devoid of any mistakes. Also, verified and edited new policies that were issued to customers in New Jersey.

EDITOR

June 1991- August 1991

FENIX CIRCLE

Cleveland, Ohio

Summer Training Educational Program

Supervised 9-10 teenagers in the maintenance and beautification of several Cultural Gardens located on East Blvd. After cleaning the Cultural Gardens, responsible for aiding the children in designing a flower display in their particular cultural garden.

SUPERVISOR

June 1990- August 1990

Computer skills: I am computer literate with respect to Microsoft Word, Access and Excel, WordPerfect, LOTUS, and BASIC.

VOLUNTEER WORK

SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION

TRUSTEE

January 2012- Present

**COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
FOR GREATER CLEVELAND**

TRUSTEE

December 2018-Present

ST. EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL

TRUSTEE

January 2017-Present

LITERACY CO-OPERATIVE

TRUSTEE

January 2008-January 2011

KYM SELLERS FOUNDATION

TRUSTEE

January 2007-January 2010

CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

East Cleveland, Ohio

MAGISTRATE

January 2003- March 2005

Preside over cases on behalf of the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court for matters referred to its Diversion Program. Discuss cases and problems with children who have been recommended to participate in program. I hear cases originating from East Cleveland, Cleveland, Euclid, Cleveland Heights and Maple Heights. Impose unique sanctions for the minors misconduct and implore them to change their behavior. Program allows children to avoid a juvenile record and simultaneously provide service to the community while improving their future.

**CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL COURT/CLEVELAND
CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Cleveland, Ohio

MOCK TRIAL JUDGE

April 1999- Present

I have both presided over and scored Mock Trial Competition between Cleveland Municipal School District High School teams. Function as one of the instructors for the Mock Trial training workshop.

TEEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Cleveland, Ohio

FACILITATOR

April 1999- Present

Conducted discussions with young men from grades 9 thru 12 at several workshops throughout the year regarding issues surrounding domestic violence. Advised young men about healthy relationships and the consequences of engaging in appropriate and illegal behavior.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST