

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES RATING COALITION
REQUEST FOR BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
FROM JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

This form seeks information about you that will be posted on the Judge4Yourself.com website with its ratings. Please complete and return this form and a black and white photograph of yourself before your scheduled interview. Each Candidate is responsible to provide accurate information, to review the information when posted and to advise the JCRC promptly of any correction required to that candidate's posted information.

Name: Marilyn Zayas

Current City of Residence: Cincinnati Date and Place of Birth: 11/30/1964, New York City, New York

Undergraduate School and Degree (Year of Graduation): CUNY, the City College of New York, 1987, B.S. in Computer Science

Law School (Year of Graduation): University of Cincinnati College of Law, 1997

Other Graduate School, if any, and Degree (Year of Graduation): _____

Year Admitted to Practice in Ohio: 1999 Number of Years Engaged in Practice of Law in Ohio: Seventeen +
(excluding Judicial Service)

Other Court(s) to Which

You Are Admitted & Year(s): U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, 2005; U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, 2000

Number of Years Engaged in Practice of Law in any State (excluding Judicial Service): Nineteen +

Briefly describe your areas of practice:

This is my sixth year serving as a judge on Ohio's First District Court of Appeals. Since joining the court, I have decided over 1,000 appeals throughout Ohio. I was appointed by Ohio's Chief Justice by special assignment to sit for a case at the Ohio Supreme Court and to sit on the Second, Sixth, Eighth, and Tenth District Courts of Appeals. Prior to joining the court, I advocated for my clients for nearly 20 years, litigating in both state and federal courts. I have represented clients from all over the world and from all walks of life. Some were millionaires, some were impoverished. My extensive legal background includes experience in business and family immigration law, intellectual property, labor and employment, criminal, delinquency, custody and adoptions.

Summarize your experience, if any, before the court to which you seek election:

I was appointed by Ohio's Chief Justice by special assignment to sit for a case at the Ohio Supreme Court. I was also appointed by Ohio's Chief Justice to serve as a commissioner on the

Board of Character and Fitness where we conduct hearings to ensure that applicants possess the necessary character and moral qualifications to practice law as an attorney in Ohio.

Service as judge in state or federal court of record (identify position, court and years of service):

Judge at Ohio's First District Court of Appeals, 2016 – Present
Judge by special assignment at Ohio's Second, Sixth, Tenth, and Eighth District Courts of Appeals,
Judge by special assignment at Ohio's Supreme Court.

Ohio Supreme Court Board on Character & Fitness, Commissioner December 2018-February 2022.

Current Position and Employer (number of years in this position):

Judge at Ohio's First District Court of Appeals, 5+ years

Previous Employment and Dates:

MZD Law, Attorney, Founder 2000-2016

University of Cincinnati College of Law, Adjunct Professor 1998-2001

Hamilton County Public Defender's Office, Trial counsel, 1998-2001

Holland & Hart LLP, Intellectual Property Litigator and Labor & Employment Law, 1997-1998

G.E. Aircraft Engines, Summer Associate, Summer 1996

Judge Ann Marie Tracey, Judicial Extern, Fall 1996

The Procter & Gamble Co., IT Manager, 1988-1994

List no more than five of your significant community or charitable activities:

- Created Educating Tomorrow's Leaders, an educational and inspirational program for high school, undergraduate, and law students to learn about Ohio's courts, engage with judges, and be inspired to dream big and realize that they can overcome any obstacle. 2017 – Current.
- Created, Organized and hosted the annual Black History Month "Bridge to the Bench," which was created to provide students of color a meaningful opportunity to engage with judges of color. In 2022, the event was a collaboration with the Ohio Black Judge's Association, the Black Law Students Association (BLSA), the Latino Law Students Association (LLSA), and the Asian Pacific Islander Law Students Association (APILSA). February 2022, February 2021.

- Currently serving on the Board of Beech Acres Parenting Center, whose mission is to empower parents and strengthen children by providing parent enrichment programs, foster parent education and kinship care support and resources.
- As a practitioner, I partnered with various law enforcement agencies to ensure that they understood the issues immigrants and non-English speakers faced in coming to court as a victim or witness, such as the fear of being deported. We developed processes to help ensure attendance at court proceedings. I also provided education and information on law enforcement's role in helping victims of crimes of violence be able to remain in the United States on a victim's visa. One of the largest groups of victims who benefited were domestic violence victims.
- As a practitioner, I worked with juvenile courts to develop internal processes for granting "special juvenile immigrant visas." This visa protects qualified children born in any foreign country from abuse and neglect, by allowing them to remain in the United States under the care of a custodian.