

**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 color 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: Tess Neff

Current City of Residence: Lakewood

Date and Place of Birth: April 27, 1963, Cleveland, Ohio

Undergraduate School and Degree (Year of Graduation): Bowling Green State University, B.S. Criminal Justice (1985)

Law School (Year of Graduation): Cleveland Marshall College of Law, J.D. (1991)

Other Graduate School, if any, and Degree (Year of Graduation): N/A

Year Admitted to Practice in Ohio: 1992 Number of Years Engaged in Practice of Law in Ohio: 29 as an attorney of which 18 years is judicial experience

(excluding Judicial Service)

Other Court(s) to Which

You Are Admitted & Year(s): N/A

Number of Years Engaged in Practice of Law in any State (excluding Judicial Service): N/A

Briefly describe your areas of practice:

I have practiced as an attorney and my legal experience is in municipal and state courts representing clients in civil, criminal, domestic relations and real estate cases. As a staff attorney in the General Division Court of Common Pleas, I researched and wrote recommendations on dispositive motions and legal issues, conducted case management conferences and status hearings for two Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Judges. I work daily on legal matters in my position as the Court Administrator for the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. I am involved in contracts, negotiations, mediations, administrative hearings, employment law, human resources related issues and standards governing court processes and timelines.

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

I was a judicial officer for 10 years in the Lakewood Municipal Court where I also was appointed Acting Judge. My extensive experience includes presiding over trials and hearings involving every case type within the court's jurisdiction such as small claims, civil, criminal, housing, traffic, and felony preliminary hearings. It was my responsibility to manage and conduct my docket to ensure statutory time limits and Ohio Supreme Court guidelines were adhered to. I issued written findings of fact and conclusions of law to support my legal decisions on trials and dispositive hearings

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

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

Court Administrator (attorney) for the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. September 2021 marks six (6) years that I was unanimously appointed by the six (6) Juvenile Court Judges to manage court operations, 550 staff, a budget exceeding \$50 million, and legal issues within the court.

Previous Employment and Dates:

Judicial Magistrate, Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court (2007-2015); Judicial Magistrate and Acting Judge, Lakewood Municipal Court (1996-2006); Staff Attorney, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, General Division (1995-1996); Tess Neff, Attorney at Law (1992-1996); Police Officer, Houston, Texas (1985-1988)

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

Beck Center for the Performing Arts Community Engagement Committee (Lakewood)

League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, Lakewood Chapter (Lakewood)

Lakewood YMCA Advisory Board

Community Clergy Coalition Committee (Cuyahoga County)

Juvenile Court Citizens Advisory Board (Cuyahoga County)