

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): Twenty eight

Briefly describe your areas of practice:

This is my tenth year serving as a judge on Ohio's First District Court of Appeals. Since joining the court, I have decided over 2,000 appellate cases across Ohio. I was appointed multiple times to sit on the Ohio Supreme court to replace a recused justice by the Chief Justice (she is from a different political party). Last year alone, I was selected three times within a 40-day window by the Chief Justice to sit at our Ohio Supreme Court, an unprecedented honor. I have also sat by special appointment of the Chief Justice 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 represented people from all over the world and from all walks of life. My extensive legal background includes experience in family law, labor and employment law, intellectual property, business and family immigration law, criminal, delinquency, custody and adoptions.

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

I was appointed multiple times to sit on the Ohio Supreme court to replace a recused justice by the Chief Justice, (she is from a different political party). Last year alone, I was selected three times within a 40-day window by the Chief Justice to sit on our Ohio Supreme Court, an unprecedented honor. I was also appointed by Ohio's Chief Justice to serve as a commissioner on the Ohio Supreme Court's Board of Character and Fitness where hearings are conducted to ensure that applicants possess the necessary character and moral qualifications to practice law as an attorney.

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, 10 years

Previous Employment and Dates:

MZD Law, Attorney, Founder 2000-2016

University of Cincinnati College of Law, Adjunct Professor 2014-2015

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

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

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

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

- Created the Educating Tomorrow's Leaders Program, 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. Since 2017, over 2000 students throughout Ohio participated including students from Ohio's Law and Leadership Institute, East High School in Youngstown and Saint Martin de Porres High School in Cleveland.

- As the first Latina elected to an Ohio Court of Appeals and any appellate court in the Midwest, I embrace the responsibility of serving as a role model and mentor to others. As part of that commitment to community service, I have spoken to corporations and businesses, including Procter & Gamble, Fifth Third Bank, The Kroger Company, E.W. Scripps, Huntington Bank, Gorilla Glue, General Electric Aviation, Luxottica, Big Lots, and Designer Brands Inc. These presentations have focused on appellate best practices, professional leadership, and personal reflections on overcoming challenges, building resilience, and achieving success.
- I have instructed, at no cost, judges, magistrates, members of the FBI, social workers, and various attorneys, including prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys, on a variety of legal topics.
- As an attorney, I built a long-standing partnership with various Ohio law enforcement agencies to develop policies that encouraged victims to report crimes and participate in court proceedings, efforts that help protect entire communities.