



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO



SHARON L. KENNEDY

JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

On Dec. 7, 2012, Sharon L. Kennedy became the 154th justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio and the ninth female justice in the court's history.

The last day of her current term is Dec. 31, 2020.

CONTACT:

Justice Sharon L. Kennedy
Supreme Court of Ohio
65 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3431
Tel: 614.387.9000

On Nov. 4, 2014, Justice **Sharon L. Kennedy** was re-elected to a full term on the Supreme Court in a decisive victory, winning all 88 counties and garnering 73 percent of the vote. Justice Kennedy first joined the court in 2012, having been elected to fill an unexpired term.

Prior to her term on the Ohio Supreme Court, Justice Kennedy served at the Butler County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division beginning in 1999. From 2005 until December 2012, Justice Kennedy served as the administrative judge of that division. During her time as administrative judge, she improved the case management system to ensure the timely resolution of cases for families and children. Working with state legislators, she championed a “common sense” family-law initiative to reduce multiple-forum litigation for Butler County families.

When Butler County faced tough economic times, Justice Kennedy organized concerned elected officials in a county-wide Budget Work Group. Seeing the need to bring private-sector financial know-how to the government, she worked to create the Advisory Committee to the Budget Work Group. Justice Kennedy served as the facilitator and led discussions between county officials and private sector leaders to analyze county finances, study and implement cost saving measures, and present business-driven fiscal policy to the county commissioners.

In 1991, after obtaining her law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, Justice Kennedy ran a small business of her own as a solo practitioner. While in private practice, she served the legal needs of families, juveniles, and the less fortunate. As special counsel for Attorney General Betty D. Montgomery, Justice Kennedy fought on behalf of Ohio's taxpayers to collect monies due the State of Ohio. As a part-time magistrate in the Butler County Area Courts, Justice Kennedy presided over a wide array of civil litigation and assisted law enforcement officers and private citizens seeking the issuance of criminal warrants for arrest.

Justice Kennedy began her career in the justice system as a police officer at the Hamilton Police Department. She was assigned to a rotating shift, single-officer road patrol unit working to protect and serve the citizens of the City of Hamilton. From the routine, to the heart-pounding, to the heart-breaking, she has seen it all. During her time as an officer, Justice Kennedy also worked undercover operations, implemented crime prevention programs, and later, as a civil assistant, assisted in drafting police policy and procedure for the Accreditation Program.

Throughout her career, Justice Kennedy has served on numerous boards, developed and facilitated programs to address the needs of young people, and worked with judges across the state. As a dedicated jurist she has received multiple awards of recognition including: Leadership Ohio Community Leadership Award, 2016; The University of Cincinnati College of Law Nicholas Longworth, III Alumni Achievement Award, May 17, 2014; Northwest High School Distinguished Alumnus Award, April 25, 2014; named one of 13 professional women to watch by *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, March 17, 2013; Excellence in Public Service, June 2009; Judge of the Year, 2006; Above the Fold Award, 2002; and the Furtherance of Justice Award, 2001. Justice Kennedy also was featured in *Trends in the Judiciary: Interviews with Judges Across the Globe, Volume II*, published by CRC Press in February 2015.

EVENTS

- January 7, 2013 – Administered the oath of office to the Ohio Senate leadership and new members, Columbus
- January 7, 2013 – Administered the oath of office to new Butler County members of the Ohio House of Representatives, Columbus
- January 14, 2013 – Administered the oath of office to the state school board president and vice president, Columbus
- January 18, 2013 – “New Beginnings,” Address, The Federalist Society, Cincinnati
- January 28, 2013 – Administered the oath of office to Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations Judge Janet Rath Colaluca, Cleveland
- February 6, 2013 - Address, Ohio State Medical Association Alliance, Hilliard, Ohio
- March 23, 2013 - “Becoming a Leader” Address, Ohio State Medical Association Resident Fellow Section/Medical Student Section Annual Meeting, Hilliard, Ohio
- April 19, 2013 - Address to the Beavercreek Rotary Club, Beavercreek, Ohio
- April 19, 2013 - Address to the Rotary District 6670 Annual Conference, celebrating the 25th anniversary of women in Rotary, Mason, Ohio
- April 26, 2013 - Address to the attendees at the oath of office ceremony for Judge Craig Baldwin, Fifth District Court of Appeals, Newark, Ohio
- May 2, 2013 - Administered the oath of office to Judge Timothy Van Sickle, Wayne County Municipal Court, Wooster, Ohio
- June 12, 2013 - Address to the delegates of the 2013 American Legion Buckeye Boys State, Bowling Green, Ohio
- June 14, 2013 - Address to the Middletown Chamber of Commerce Board regarding new position on the court, the make-up of the court, and the transition of the court in 2016 and 2018, Middletown, Ohio
- July 29, 2013 - Address to the Defiance Rotary noting the principles of the Rotary Four-Way Test are also the Foundational Principles of the Birth of America, Defiance, Ohio
- September 9, 2013 - Keynote address at Capital Law School’s New Student Convocation
- September 27, 2013 - Keynote address to Toledo Women’s Bar Association
- October 1, 2013 - Keynote address to Ohio Chapter of FBI National Academy Associates
- October 8, 2013 – Address at Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society
- November 7, 2013 - Address at continuing legal education seminar for Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease, LLP and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
- November 8, 2013 - Keynote speech at Frost Brown Todd continuing legal education seminar
- November 18, 2013 - Presentation at the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys 2013 Annual Meeting
- November 27, 2013 - Address at the 20th Annual Ohio Association of Pretrial Services Agencies Conference
- December 2, 2013 - Administered the oath of office to Fairfield Municipal Court Judge Joyce A. Campbell, Lancaster
- January 16, 2014 - Keynote address to Lawyers Club of Dayton
- February 19, 2014 - Address to University of Cincinnati College of Law

EVENTS - CONTINUED

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- March 5, 2014 - Address to Tiffin Rotary Club
 - March 6, 2014 - Keynote address to Sandusky Rotary Club
 - May 17, 2014 - Awarded 2014 Nicholas Longworth III, Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Cincinnati College of Law
 - May 21, 2014 – Met with members of Leadership Muskingum at the Moyer Judicial Center
 - June 3, 2014 – Address to St. Clairsville Rotary Club
 - June 11, 2014 – Administered oath of office to Buckeye Boys State elected officials
 - June 13, 2014 – Address on Elder Abuse Prevention at “Justice for All” in Stark County
 - July 2, 2014 – Address to Ironton Rotary Club
 - July 7, 2014 – Keynote address to Findlay Rotary Club
 - July 14, 2014 – Address to Fremont Rotary Club
 - July 16, 2014 – Address to Tipp City Rotary Club
 - July 18, 2014 – Breakfast address to local business owners and community leaders in Van Wert
 - July 21, 2014 – Address to Springfield Rotary Club
 - August 1, 2014 – Presided over Swearing-In Ceremony of Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations Judge Amy L. Searcy
 - August 4, 2014 – Address to Athens Rotary Club
 - August 5, 2014 – Address at Hocking County Senior Center
 - August 7, 2014 – Keynote address to Loudonville Rotary Club
 - August 8, 2014 – Address to Oakwood Rotary Club
 - August 12, 2014 – Address to Waterville Rotary Club
 - August 13, 2014 – Keynote address to Ottawa County Kiwanis Club
 - August 25, 2014 – Address to Howland Rotary Club
 - August 26, 2014 – Address to Carrollton Rotary Club
 - August 26, 2014 – Address at Jefferson County Senior Center
 - September 2, 2014 – Address to Upper Arlington Senior Citizens
 - September 9, 2014 – Address at Ohio Association of Realtors Convention
 - September 16, 2014 – Address to Harrison County Senior Citizens
 - September 22, 2014 – Address to Sidney Rotary Club
 - September 23, 2014 –Address to Perry County Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
 - September 26, 2014 – Keynote address to Beaver Creek Rotary Club
 - September 30, 2014 – Address to Chillicothe Rotary Club
 - September 30, 2014 – Presentation at Ta-Wa-Si Club of Dayton
 - September 30, 2014 – Address to New Bremen-New Knoxville Rotary Club
 - October 22, 2014 – Address to Gahanna Rotary Club
 - October 27, 2014 - Address to Defiance Rotary Club
 - January 5, 2015 – Administered oath of office to members of the Ohio Senate
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