

*The Judicial Biographies Of
The Municipal Court Of Cleveland
1912 to 2017*

Joseph N. Ackerman

Joseph Nathan Ackerman was a state senator and a judge, and was best known for being the father of beer in Ohio. Ackerman was born in Austria-Hungary in 1889, and came to Cleveland in 1912. He attended law school through Baldwin Wallace College, graduated in 1915 and was admitted to the Ohio bar.

In 1918 and 1920, he made unsuccessful runs for state senate. Undeterred by his second place finishes, Ackerman would make a successful run at the state senate as a Republican in 1925. He would go on to serve four terms in total, continuing to 1933.

Ackerman gained widespread fame for introducing to the State Legislature the bill which legalized beer in Ohio. He received the greatest reception ever given a returning legislator when he arrived from Columbus on May 31, 1933. The passage of his "Beer Bill" assured everyone in the state had an opportunity to have a drink the next week. A huge crowd assembled in Union Terminal to greet him as he emerged from his train. A band blasted out the tune "Wien Bleibt Wien" (Vienna remains Vienna) and a parade route lined with revelers went up and down Euclid Avenue.

As the parade kicked off, fire rose from barrels on pretzel-factory trucks, beer trucks and on old-time, horse-drawn beer wagons. Fireworks shot off on East Sixth Street. "We want beer! We want beer!" shouted revelers on Euclid Avenue. Ackerman rode to the Hotel Hollenden in a convertible, waving like Charles Lindbergh, home from his trans-Atlantic flight. Pretty girls dressed in dirndls passed out pretzels. In the hotel ballroom, an orchestra played FDR's campaign song, the song of repeal: "Happy Days Are Here Again."

At 9 a.m. on April 7, dubbed New Beer's Day, two trucks of Grossvater Beer from Akron's Renner Brewery rolled into town. Beer from throughout the country followed. Hotels and restaurants sold it for 10 cents a glass and 20 cents a bottle. Happy drinkers filled streets and taxis. The Hollenden served 2,200 people at lunch, compared to the usual 750. One big, happy man walked into a hotel restaurant and whispered to the waitress, who came back with three beer steins. "You'll forgive me," he said, "but I've been thirsty for 13 years." Riding this wave of popularity, Ackerman was elected as a municipal judge.

He passed away suddenly at the age of 52 in 1942

Joseph N. Ackerman served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1934 to December 31, 1939.



Ronald B. Adrine

Ronald Bruce Adrine is a life-long resident of Greater Cleveland. He graduated from Fisk University and the Cleveland Marshall College of Law. Passing the bar in 1973, he joined the staff of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor in 1974 as an assistant in the criminal trial division. In 1976, he entered private practice with his father, the late Russell T. Adrine. In 1978, he was appointed to serve as a Senior Staff Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations, which investigated the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. He ran for his current seat on the Cleveland Municipal Court bench in 1981.



Returning to Cleveland following his congressional service, Adrine convened the group that founded the Norman S. Minor Bar Association in 1980. Named after one of the most influential trial attorneys in Cleveland's history, this is now the largest organization of African American attorneys in the state of Ohio.

Beginning with his first run in 1981, Judge Adrine has been re-elected five times, without opposition, to full six-year terms, most recently in November of 2011. During his time on the bench, Adrine has been known as an innovator. He inaugurated the court's community service work program, and coordinated the first comprehensive redrafting of the complete set of the court's local rules. He was responsible for the restructure and combination of the combined jury service with the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. He has championed the cause of dedicated dockets, most notably the domestic violence and veteran's specific dockets that have served as models for other jurisdictions. His peers elected him Administrative and Presiding Judge in 2008 and re-elected him to those leadership positions in the years since.

Adrine lectures extensively on domestic violence issues to judicial, legal, law enforcement, governmental and civic groups. He is co-author of *Ohio Domestic Violence Law Handbook*. He chaired the Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness, a joint effort of the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Ohio State Bar Association. The judge is a frequent lecturer for the Ohio Judicial College on issues of Access and Fairness in Ohio's courts.

Ronald B. Adrine has served Cleveland Municipal Court since January 4, 1982.

Joseph A. Artl

Joseph Albert Artl was one of Cuyahoga County's most respected public officials in a career spanning four decades. A product of Cleveland's Fleet Avenue neighborhood, he was the son of Bohemian immigrants. After graduating from South High School, he worked as an accountant at the Newburgh Works of the American Steel & Wire Company while attending Cleveland Law School. He received his law degree and was admitted to the bar in 1923.



Artl was elected to Cleveland City Council in 1932, serving as Democratic Minority Leader and briefly in 1936 as Council President. Although he withdrew from the 1935 mayoral election in the interest of party harmony, he was appointed in 1936 to the municipal court to fill an unexpired term, which he left prior to its termination. He ran that November for a new term, beginning in January, which he won. He would serve on the court for the next nine years.

In 1947 Artl was elected judge of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. Named the county's outstanding Democrat by the 33rd Ward Democratic Club in 1961, he was elected in 1963 to the first of two terms on the Ohio Court of Appeals, Eighth District.

Artl passed away at the age of 77 in 1970.

Joseph A. Artl served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from December 31, 1936 to November 10, 1937, and from January 4, 1938 to January 1, 1947.

Harry Auslander

Harry Auslander earned a bachelor's degree from Western Reserve University and his law degree from the Western Reserve University Law School. He was engaged in private practice until Mayor Frank J. Lausche appointed him to the Police Prosecutor staff in 1942 as an Assistant Police Prosecutor.

In 1942, his salary was \$2,400 a year. "I had no difficulty living on that money then. Times were different." He remained in that position until 1959, when he accepted an appointment to the state Attorney General's staff, in charge of the Claims section in the Cleveland office.

Governor Michael V. DiSalle appointed Auslander to the municipal court in 1961. However, he was unsuccessful in his quest for election. Following the election loss, he was hired as a Trial Referee in Small Claims Court.

He passed away at age 78 in 1984.

Harry Auslander served Cleveland Municipal Court as a Judge from January 10, 1961 to December 4, 1961.



George P. Baer

George P. Baer was born in Nevada, Ohio, a few miles south of Bucyrus on August 18, 1875. From a young age he was determined to become a lawyer. To that end, he became a teacher and while engaged as an educator, he completed his legal education at Ohio Northern University, and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1902. Later that year, he came to Cleveland, opening a law office in the Society for Savings Building. A Democrat, he became active in local elections, campaigning for Mayor Tom L. Johnson. His early residence was The Sphinx Club, a residential club for young bachelors.



He began his career in public service in 1905 as a Police Prosecutor under Newton D. Baker, at the time, City Solicitor. In November of 1911, he was successfully elected as one of the first jurists to open the new Municipal Court of Cleveland. Baer was re-elected in 1915.

In 1918, he was elected to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, where he served for thirty continuous years until 1948. He made an unsuccessful run for Probate Court in 1926. While on the Common Pleas bench, Baer contributed a great deal to improve the condition of mentally ill patients held in County Jail. He was also deeply interested in judicial reforms, chairing a committee that examined and laid the foundation for today's pretrial department, and was an early advocate of a domestic relations bureau. Baer was noted for the energy he brought to the bench. He often said that the taxpayers who paid him expected him to work and that he would always work hard.

He played hard too. In addition to the bench, Baer was known as the father of public golf in Cleveland. He was one of Cleveland's early golfers and one of the founders of the public links movement. When the city bought land near Warrensville for eventual use as a cemetery, he convinced then Mayor Baker to allow some of the land to be used for a golf course, and thus Highland Park Golf Course was born. Later he was one of the early organizers of the Sleepy Hollow Country Club.

Baer was also a gifted violinist, often playing in duet with Judge Samuel H. Silbert.

Baer passed away at the age 78 in 1953.

George P. Baer served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1912 to December 31, 1918.

Charles J. Bauernschmidt

Charles John Bauernschmidt is a graduate of Shaker Heights High School. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Rollins College in Florida, and his Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University.

After law school, Judge Bauernschmidt entered public service as an Assistant City of Cleveland Prosecutor. Five years later, he joined the Cuyahoga County Prosecutors Office where he stayed for 22 years, working under John T. Corrigan, Stephanie Tubbs Jones and William Mason. In 1981, he made an unsuccessful run at the Cleveland bench.

In 2002, Judge Bauernschmidt retired from the county to work with his wife in her law firm. He also served as a magistrate in the City of Bratenahl. He was appointed to the court by Governor John Kasich to fill an unexpired term. However, his appointment came too late to file for the next election, so he never ran for the unexpired term.

Charles J. Bauernschmidt served Cleveland Municipal Court from July 11, 2013 to December 4, 2013.



William B. Beebe

William Brewster Beebe was born in Hudson, Ohio, in 1859, and as a young boy stood for hours to see President Lincoln's funeral train pass through. As a result he caught a severe cold which affected his leg and lamed him for life. At the age of 21, he traveled to Columbus to study law at the Attorney General's Office and four years later he was admitted to the Ohio bar.

Beebe was Chief Clerk in the office of the Attorney General from 1880 to 1884. He was a candidate for Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge in 1893, but lost. After this stint he practiced law in Cleveland for many years prior to his election to the municipal court.

In 1911, at the age of 51, he was elected as one of the first judges of the Municipal Court of Cleveland, and was re-elected for 18 additional years. He was known on the bench as a man who was strict without being unreasonable. He often told the story of how his political advisors told him he would have to throw away his cane just to show people that he was still capable of holding down a job. He did discard the cane, but could never disguise the limp.

After losing the race for re-election in 1929 Beebe was asked if he would run again. He replied, "It's as hard for a judge to make a comeback as a prize fighter.....I've tried to make the court dignified. Oh it isn't very high in jurisdiction, but it was where you had a chance to meet people and a chance to do a lot of good."

In retirement, Beebe enjoyed gardening, his easy chair and a warm fireside where he enjoyed reading, especially the subjects of geography and travel. "In all my years of such travel," he said, "I never missed a train."

Beebe never made that comeback; he died in February of 1940 at the age of 81.

William B. Beebe served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1912 to December 31, 1929.



Oscar C. Bell

Oscar Clifford Bell was born in Biggsville, Illinois on March 15, 1880. His early education was received there, and he entered the University of Illinois in 1900. There he was not only an excellent student, but an accomplished athlete as well. He came away from Illinois in 1903 with letters in varsity football, track and a Bachelor of Laws Degree.

Rather than begin the practice of law, Bell became the Principal of Belmont High School in Belmont, Illinois. After 3 years there, he gained a position on the faculty and athletic department at Monmouth College in Illinois. From 1907 to 1911 he held similar positions at Kirksville, Missouri, Normal School.

Coming to Cleveland in 1911, Bell took a position as a coach of football and track at East Tech High School, turning out championship teams in both sports. In 1914, he began the practice of law. He practiced law full time for two years before the call to coaching returned for him, this time to West Tech High School, where he taught civics and business law in addition to coaching. His return to coaching would last until 1919, when he turned again to the practice of law.

While engaged in his own practice, he was appointed to the position of Chief Examiner of the Cleveland Civil Service Commission by Mayor William S. Fitzgerald. In 1922 Mayor Fred Kohler appointed Bell as an Assistant Law Director, a position he held until 1923. In November of 1923, he stood for and won his first election to the municipal court bench. He would be re-elected three times.

Bell died suddenly; so suddenly that when he passed away, possible successors were left scrambling to obtain 3,000 valid signatures in only 24 hours in order to appear on the ballot.

Bell passed away in 1943 at the age of 62.

Oscar C. Bell served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1924 to August 17, 1943.



Maurice Bernstein

Maurice Bernstein, (Bernon) was a native Clevelander, born in 1885, the son of Polish immigrants. He was educated at Central High School, entering Western Reserve University Law School and receiving his law degree in 1906.

After graduation he practiced law and held a succession of elected and appointed positions in local government, including Cleveland City Councilman in 1908 and 1909 for the 15th Ward.

In May of 1909 Bernstein was named temporary President of the newly formed Buckeye Club. With three hundred charter members, the purpose of the club was to affiliate the 13th, 15th, 19th, 20th and 21st wards into a Democratic organization.

He was an Assistant City Solicitor in 1910 through 1911, a member of the Ohio Senate, from 1913 through 1914, and an Assistant Attorney General of Ohio, from 1917 through 1918.

Using his given last name of Bernstein, he was elected to the municipal court. Changing his name to Bernon about 1919, he was elected judge of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court in 1920, serving until 1924. In 1928, he became a member of the Board of Elections, serving there until 1934. He was elected to the Democratic Party's Executive Board in 1936.

A resident of Cleveland when he died, he passed away at the age of 69 in 1954.

Maurice Bernstein, (Bernon) served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from December 3, 1914 to January 31, 1917.



Hugh P. Brennan

Hugh Patrick Brennan was born in Cleveland in 1915, attended St. Catherine Catholic School, and graduated from John Adams High School in 1935. He worked his way through college at John Carroll University and the Cleveland Marshall Law School laboring mainly as a print shop pressman and an insurance claims adjuster. He graduated and passed the bar in 1946.

Establishing himself in private practice, he would also serve for a period as an Assistant State Attorney General from 1949 to 1951. He would serve for a time as the Constable of East Cleveland, leaving the position in 1952.

Brennan made several attempts at elected office in the 1950s, for Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and for State Representative. Each loss was by a narrow margin. Although he had little luck at elections, he was a successful attorney, specializing in workman's compensation cases. In practice, he would bring cases to every level of court in the state.

He was appointed to the municipal bench in 1959 by Governor Michael V. DiSalle. Brennan won the election for the remaining term and was successfully re-elected until 1979, when he lost his last election.

He passed away in 1986 at the age of 75.

Hugh P. Brennan served Cleveland Municipal Court from November 10, 1959 to December 31, 1979.



Richard M. Brennan

Richard Michael Brennan was a native Clevelander who graduated from St. Ignatius High School, John Carroll University and the Cleveland Marshall Law School. He passed the bar in 1959.

Brennan initially was hired as an Assistant Cleveland Law Director in 1960. Dipping his feet for the first time in the political waters of municipal court, Brennan was considered a long shot in the election of 1965. Even when the incumbent passed away and his appointed replacement was declared ineligible as a write in, he still was relegated to the dark horse category. His one remaining opponent was a well-known and well liked Assistant County Prosecutor. Without party or media endorsement, Brennan triumphed at the polls. He would remain in the post of Chief Justice until the position was abolished in the mid-1970s, but he would continue on as an Associate Judge.

For decades the judges of municipal court had tried to convince the voters that a new courthouse was desperately needed, and each year their efforts met with no success. Judge Brennan played a major role in gaining community support for the construction of the Justice Center, which was finally approved in 1969. He considered that one of his major accomplishments as a judge.

Brennan was forced to retire due to illness in 1987. He passed away in 2001 at the age of 68.

Richard M Brennan served Cleveland Municipal Court as Chief Justice from December 2, 1965 to December 31, 1974, and as an Associate Judge from January 1, 1975 to November 30, 1987.



Lloyd O. Brown



Lloyd Odom Brown was the first African-American elected as a Cleveland Municipal Court Judge and the second to sit as an Ohio Supreme Court Justice. He was born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1928, and his family moved to Cleveland when he was two. When he was five, his father, a firm believer in the work ethic, gave him five copies of *The Call and Post* newspaper to sell each week in the old Woodland Market. Brown was 12 when his father died and during his teen-age years, he worked in the press room of *The Call and Post* and at a shoe store owned by his uncle.

He graduated from East Technical High School in 1946, and joined the Coast Guard, spending four years stationed in New England. Using his veterans' benefits, he attended Ohio State University and worked part time in a potato chip factory. It was in Columbus where he met his wife, Phyllis. She took a job in the university's Air Force ROTC department to help her husband finish school. Graduating in 1955 with both a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a law degree, he was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1956.

Returning to Cleveland, his legal career began in the office of then-Councilman Charles V. Carr & Associates. Brown served as an Ohio Assistant Attorney General in 1958 and 1959, and as a trial lawyer in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, from 1959 to 1967. Over those eight years, he was busy with several major cases.

In 1967, a solid base of black voters mobilized at the polls to elect Carl B. Stokes as the nation's first black mayor of a major American city. Brown was elected to the municipal court on that same wave of voter enthusiasm. While on the bench, he instituted a \$5 reduction in fines in traffic court for those found wearing a seat belt at the time the citation was issued, the first such program in the country.

Governor John J. Gilligan appointed him to the Ohio Supreme Court in 1971. When Lloyd Brown ran to keep his seat in 1972, he faced no opposition in the Democratic primary. However, he was defeated by Paul W. Brown in the general election in November. This may have been a clear case of voter name confusion.

The next year, Gilligan appointed him as a judge in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. There would be no confusion in the next election. Voters retained Brown on the bench through subsequent elections until 1986, when he declined to run. He retired from the bench and went into private practice.

He had plans to retire when he passed away May 3, 1993 at the age of 64.

Lloyd O. Brown served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 3, 1968 to December 20, 1971.

Lillian W. Burke

Lillian Walker Burke, a lifelong Republican in a city full of Democrats, was the first black female judge in Ohio. A Georgia native, she received her undergraduate degree from Ohio State University and her law degree from what is now the Cleveland Marshall College of Law. She was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1951.

Her career in public service began when William Saxbe was Ohio Attorney General. She was hired as an Assistant Attorney General, specializing in workman's compensation cases.

Ohio Governor James A. Rhodes named Burke to the municipal bench to fill an unexpired term in 1969. She was the state's first black female judge, and as such, had to resign her position as a member of the Ohio Industrial Commission to accept the judgeship.

Judge Burke retired in 1987, and passed away at the age of 94 in 2012.

Lillian W. Burke served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 20, 1969 to December 31, 1987.



John J. Busher

John J. Busher was born in Cleveland in 1882. He graduated from Immaculate Conception High School in 1899, and in 1923, he completed his law studies and graduated from Cleveland Law School.

He began his political career in 1913 when he became a Deputy Clerk of Courts, a position he held for eight years. He served 1 year as a Cuyahoga County Bond Commissioner, a position that was later abolished. Becoming a Court Constable assigned to clerical duties in the Criminal Branch of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, he later was transferred to the Civil Branch. It was here that he became a recognized authority on questions of courtroom procedure.

In 1932 he was elected to the office of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Clerk of Courts for a 2 year term, and again in 1934 and 1936, when the term became 4 years. His office was known for efficiency and adherence to the budget allotted by the County Commissioners. While Clerk, he was an early and constant advocate for the law which eliminated bills of sale and inaugurated the use of certificates of title in automotive transactions.

In 1939 he ran successfully for the municipal court bench and was re-elected in 1945. When Burt W. Griffin resigned as Chief Justice of municipal court following his election to Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, Governor Frank J. Lausche appointed Busher to Chief Justice in December of 1946.

Busher's children and grandchildren followed his path of public service. His son, John T. Busher worked in Common Pleas Court, eventually becoming supervisor of the microfilm department for 19 years. His daughter, Mary E. Busher, served Cleveland Municipal Court as Chief Probation Officer, and his granddaughter Kathleen, served as a Probation Officer.

He passed away at the age of 78 in 1961.

John J. Busher served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1940 to December 31, 1959.



Salvatore R. Calandra

Salvatore Rocco Calandra earned universal respect for his integrity and his intelligence during a quarter-century as a judge in Cleveland Municipal Court.

He was a graduate of Cathedral Latin High School, John Carroll University and Cleveland Marshall Law School. He was an Army veteran of World War II, where he was called on to be an Italian interpreter.

Entering public service in 1957, he was appointed an Assistant City Law Director. He served under three mayors, spent 10 years as a legal adviser to the City Council and was the Law Department's Chief Counsel. He was appointed to the bench in 1972 by Governor John J. Gilligan to fill an unexpired term. He was elected to a full, six-year term in 1973 and re-elected three times before age limits forced his retirement in 1997.

Judge Calandra served as President of the Diocesan Council, a National Trustee, and a member of the National Executive Committee of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Calandra passed away at the age of 88 in 2011.

Salvatore R. Calandra served Cleveland Municipal Court from February 21, 1972 to November 30, 1997.



Jean Murrell Capers

Eugenia Mae Murrell Capers was born in Kentucky, with her family moving here when she was 6 years old in 1919. Her parents were both teachers, and stressed the importance of education.

Graduated from Western Reserve University in 1932 with a degree in education, “Jean” as she was known, taught school for 5 years, first at the elementary level, and later as a health and physical education teacher at a high school. Wanting to do more to serve her community, she returned to college, enrolling at Cleveland Law School, where she earned her degree in 1945.

Capers often said she had the best profession in the world as a private practice attorney. Through the years, in addition to that practice, she served as an Assistant Police Prosecutor, an Assistant Attorney General, and in 1949, the first African-American woman elected to Cleveland City Council. She represented the 11th ward for over 9 years.

Appointed to the municipal court bench in 1977 to fill an unexpired term, Capers was 62. She was successfully elected to fill the balance of the term, and re-elected again, but was forced to leave the bench due to age limits in 1986. She received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 2009. Although considered too old for the bench, Capers continued in the practice of law until 2011.

She passed away on July 18, 2017, at the age of 104.

Jean Murrell Capers served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 18, 1977 to December 31, 1985.



Pinkey S. Carr

Pinkey Susan Carr is a Cleveland native, having grown up in the Harvard-Miles neighborhood. She graduated from John F. Kennedy High School and Baldwin Wallace College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1987, with a double minor in Business Administration and Communications. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1992, and was admitted to the Ohio bar in May of 1993.

Carr spent several years working in Cleveland City Hall during the mayoral reign of Michael R. White. She held several positions within the Cleveland Law Department, including Chief Counsel and Law Director. While employed as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, Carr spent several years in the Major Trial Unit. She prosecuted some of the most heinous cases, including the Anthony Sowell serial murder case. In the Sowell case, she won a conviction in what is considered the highest-profile criminal prosecution in Cuyahoga County history.



Pinkey S. Carr has served Cleveland Municipal Court since January 3, 2012.

James T. Cassidy

James Thomas Cassidy was born in 1886. He attended Adelbert College of Western Reserve University. He passed the Ohio bar in 1913 after graduating from law school at Western Reserve University. He initially was engaged in private practice. Along with his service in World War I with the Navy Aviation Corps, he spent from 1916 to 1920 as an Assistant Law Director of Cleveland.



Becoming the Chief Assistant County Prosecutor from 1921 to 1925 under Edward C. Stanton, Cassidy was involved in the prosecution of a number of major trials, including those of Eva K. Kaber, Salvatore Cala, Emma Colavito, Frank Motto, Sam Purpera, and others.

He returned to private practice until 1948, when he was elected to a seat on the municipal court bench. Cassidy lost his re-election bid in November of 1967. Shortly after the election, he was appointed to the position of Referee for Small Claims Court, a position that was newly created by statute, where he remained until his passing.

He passed away at the age of 86 in 1972.

James T. Cassidy served Cleveland Municipal Court as a judge from November 26, 1947 to January 2, 1968.

Marilyn B. Cassidy

Marilyn Barkley Cassidy graduated from Shaker Heights High School and Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. While working in the nursing field, she decided to enter law school. She graduated from the Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1982.

After passing the bar, Cassidy spent nine years practicing in the private sector, which included insurance and medical malpractice defense, personal injury, liability and matters of adoption. She was appointed by Governor George Voinovich to the Ohio Adoption Task Force and The Ohio Adoption Commission, where she implemented reforms that removed barriers for children in foster care waiting for permanent homes.

In 1992, Cassidy joined the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, working Civil Litigation in Federal and State Courts. As an Assistant County Prosecutor, she devoted much of her time to elder protection, investigating abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly.

She came to municipal court in 2007, appointed by Governor Robert Taft. Cassidy was elected to a full term commencing in 2008, and re-elected in 2014.



Marilyn B. Cassidy has served Cleveland Municipal Court since January 5, 2007.

Frank D. Celebrezze

Frank D. Celebrezze was born in Cleveland in 1899. He was the second oldest of 13 children. The family returned to Italy in 1908 to find employment and Frank attended Italian schools. After they returned to Cleveland in 1912, he enrolled in Brownell School. Encouraged by a teacher to continue his schooling, he graduated from East Technical High School. He enrolled in St. Ignatius College (now John Carroll University) for a year, and attended Notre Dame University for three years, receiving a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1925.



Admitted to the bar in 1926, he went into private practice. Democratic Party politics attracted Celebrezze, first as an unsuccessful candidate for city council in the 3rd District. His support of Ray T. Miller as County Prosecutor led to his appointment as an Assistant County Prosecutor in 1929. He remained in this post until January 2, 1937 when he was appointed a judge of the municipal court by then Ohio Governor Martin L. Davey. He failed to win the election in 1937 against fellow prosecutor Perry Frey, and returned to the County Prosecutor's Office, this time under Frank J. Cullitan.

He was appointed February 16, 1942 as Director of Public Properties before being appointed Safety Director in May of 1942, replacing Eliot Ness. He remained there until 1947, with a stint in the Army during World War II. He was again appointed to fill an unexpired term on the municipal bench by Governor Frank J. Lausche. He was elected to the remaining term in 1947 and was re-elected in 1951.

He passed away suddenly at the age of 54 in 1953.

Frank D. Celebrezze served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 6, 1937 to November 12, 1937 and again from December 21, 1946 to August 21, 1953.

Robert W. Chamberlin

Robert West Chamberlin attended the University of Michigan and earned his law degree at John Marshall Law School. Public service was a major part of his career, which began in private practice. He served a term as a Bay Village Councilman from 1927 -1929, and served a term as a Justice of the Peace from 1929-1931. He was a Cuyahoga County School Board member and President from 1932-1934, and a Cleveland Assistant Director of Public Safety under Eliot Ness from 1937-1940.



His 4 years in the Army during World War II were with the 37th Division and 2 years with the United States Group Control Council in Berlin and London. He left active service, achieving the rank of Brigadier General in command of the 83rd Field Artillery Brigade.

With the end of the war and military duties behind him, Chamberlin resumed his private practice. He also performed as a Grand Jury Foremen for Judge Stanley Orr in 1946 as well as assuming the position of Director of the Citizens League. In 1947, he accepted an appointment as Executive Secretary of the Republican Party Executive Committee. In 1955, Chamberlin busied himself at a new post, that of Chairman of the Greater Cleveland Community Development Committee, an offshoot of the Smaller Business of America Inc. He would simultaneously toil as Chairman of the local Red Cross.

During this period Chamberlin would run unsuccessfully three times for Common Pleas Court. Ralph Perk, County Auditor, appointed Chamberlin to a full time post on the Board of Revision, to hear appeals on property evaluations.

In January of 1969, he was appointed to the municipal court by Governor James A. Rhodes. Unfortunately, Chamberlin would not be successful at seeking election. Not out of work long, Ralph Perk would once again appoint Chamberlin to a post, this time in 1971; it would be Deputy County Auditor for real estate reappraisals. In 1972, Perk once more named Chamberlin to a post, as a Board Member of LERTA (Lake Erie Regional Transportation Authority.) This committee would study the feasibility of a proposed new jetport.

Chamberlin would have one final appointment from Perk. He was made Chief Auditor of the Board of Revision. He would serve a short time and then retire.

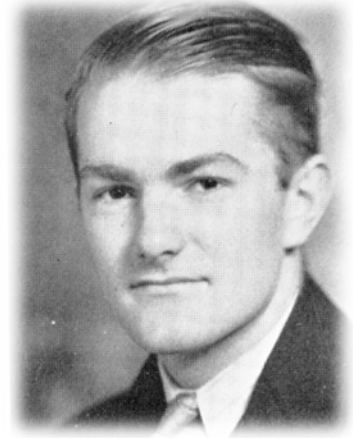
He passed away at age 82 in 1982.

Robert W. Chamberlin served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 24, 1969 to December 1, 1969.

David E. Clarke

David Eugene Clarke was born in Lafayette, Indiana in 1914. He attended Hiram College and worked his way through law school as a high school athletic director. He graduated from Western Reserve Law School in 1939. Hired initially in 1941 as an Assistant Police Prosecutor, he spent these few pre-war years prosecuting all types of cases.

Military duty soon became a priority. He entered the Navy during World War II as an Ensign in 1943. By the end of the war, he was promoted to Lieutenant. Back in civilian life, he entered private practice. It wasn't long before he was recruited again for public service, this time for the Law Department. He was appointed to the municipal bench by Governor Frank J. Lausche to fill an unexpired term. His time as a judge would be his last as a public servant.



Joining the legal staff at TRW in 1951, he would retire from their Antitrust Department in 1970.

He passed away in 1988 in Taylorsville, North Carolina at the age of 74.

David E. Clarke served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 11, 1947 to November 25, 1947.

Craig S. Cobb

Craig Steven Cobb, a native Clevelander, received his bachelor's degree from Miami University and his Juris Doctorate degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School. Initially in private practice, he later served as an Assistant Director of Law for the City of Cleveland and as a judicial law clerk at the Ohio Court of Appeals, Eighth District. He also spent time as an acting Referee for the Cleveland Civil Service Commission.

In 1988 he was appointed by Mayor George Voinovich as one of the first members of the newly created Civilian Police Review Board, serving as its chairman and vice-chairman. In 1993, he was appointed by Ohio Attorney General Lee Fisher to serve on the Ohio Consumers Counsel Governing Board, a position he held until his appointment to the municipal bench. In 1994, Governor George Voinovich appointed Cobb to fill an unexpired term in Cleveland Municipal Court.



Craig S. Cobb served Cleveland Municipal Court from October 24, 1994 to December 7, 1995.

Frederick M. Coleman

Frederick Matthew Coleman was born in Georgia in 1918 and came to Cleveland as a small child. He attended Cleveland public schools, graduating from East High in 1936 as a member of the National Honor Society.

After serving in the Army in Europe during World War II, he was a Lieutenant in the Officers' Reserved Corps. through 1948 and then a member of the Ohio National Guard and Army Reserve through 1967.

Working his way through college as a mail carrier, Coleman graduated from Western Reserve University in 1949 with a degree in business administration. His J. D. degree was earned at Cleveland Marshall Law School.

Established in private practice since 1953, he made an unsuccessful run for Congress from the 21st District in 1966. In 1967, while working in the Public Defender's Office, he was appointed by Governor James F. Rhodes to Cleveland Municipal Court.

In November of 1970, he was defeated in a run for Common Pleas Court. After that loss, he was nominated by President Richard M. Nixon to fill the position of U. S. Attorney. He vacated his judgeship in December of 1970.

In May of 1976, he was once again appointed by Governor James F. Rhodes to fill an unexpired term, this time on Common Pleas Court. He did not seek re-election in 1986.

Coleman died in 1989 at the age of 71.

Frederick M. Coleman served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 29, 1967 to December 30, 1970.



Janet Rath Colaluca

Janet Rath Colaluca is a native Clevelander, raised in the West Park neighborhood. She received her education from Our Lady of Angels elementary and Saint Joseph Academy. She graduated from John Carroll University and the Cleveland Marshall College of Law, passing the bar in 1991.

Initially in her private practice, she concentrated on Family Law. When Colaluca joined the staff of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, she served as a Magistrate in the Domestic Relations Division as well as Juvenile and Probate Divisions and in the Mayor's Court in the village of Bratenahl. While serving as Magistrate in Domestic Relations Court, she was appointed by Governor John Kasich to the Domestic Relations bench in 2013 to an unexpired term. She was unsuccessful in the election for the balance of that term.

Retained by the Domestic branch as a magistrate, Colaluca was once again called upon by Governor Kasich, accepting an appointment to serve on the Cleveland Municipal Court bench, in May of 2016.

Janet Rath Colaluca has served the Cleveland Municipal Court from May 2016 to present.



C. Ellen Connally

Cecelia Ellen Connally is a lifelong resident of Cleveland. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University and her Juris Doctorate degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School. She also holds a Masters Degree in American History from Cleveland State University and a PhD in American History at the University of Akron.

In 1971, she was admitted to the bar, and served as General Trial Referee for the Probate Division of Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. In addition, she worked as a law clerk for the Cuyahoga County Court of Appeals. Elected to municipal court in 1979, she remained a member of the court for 24 years until her retirement. Connally was the first African American female to win judicial office in Ohio without first being appointed.

After leaving the bench, Connally served as a Visiting and Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Akron College of Law. She served as the first President of the Cuyahoga County Council.



C. Ellen Connally served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 2, 1980 to December 31, 2003.

Bernard J. Conway

Bernard J. Conway was born on the east side and was forced to leave school in the 8th grade when his father died and he worked to support his family. He found work as a stock boy at the Halle Brothers department store. He rose to the position of Assistant Traffic Manager when he left to join the U.S. Marines in 1918.

While in the Marines he was stationed in New Jersey, where he met his wife. After the service he worked as a salesman during the day and high school student at night. In 1921, he enrolled in night school at John Marshall Law School. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1925.

He began in private practice where he would remain until 1940, when he joined the Police Prosecutors Office. He remained there for 20 years, the last 7 spent as Chief Police Prosecutor.

He successfully ran for a seat on the municipal court bench, and held the seat until he retired in 1970 at age 80.

He passed away at the age of 87 in 1977.

Bernard J. Conway served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 1, 1960 to March 31, 1970.



Colleen Conway Cooney

Colleen Conway Cooney received her Bachelor of Science degree from Western Reserve College in 1978 and her J.D. from Case Western Reserve University Law School in 1981.

She began her legal career as a law clerk at the Eighth District Court of Appeals. After two years, she became an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Cuyahoga County. She worked in this position for 8 years. She was elected to municipal court, serving for 9 years before her election to the appellate court.

She was a two term judge on the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals, from 2000 to the end of her term on January 2, 2013, when she retired.

Colleen Conway Cooney served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 4, 1992 to December 31, 2000.



David Copland

David Copland was, in a word, an enigma. Even in death, his published obituary was somewhat enigmatic. From various sources we gather that he was born in 1888 and reared in Glasgow, Scotland, coming to America when he was 20. The story was told that he attended Marlborough College in England, and Columbia University in New York. These details of his early life, ambiguous and possibly unreliable, would cause him great embarrassment and shame.



When he arrived in Cleveland, he immersed himself in the legal and business world. In 1928, he would make his first run for the state senate. Although that run was unsuccessful, he gained respect within the community as a candidate and attorney, an active member of the Cleveland Bar Association. In 1932, and again in 1934, he was a heavily endorsed candidate for state senator. Despite those losses, he sought a place on the Municipal Court of Cleveland bench in November of 1935. It was during this campaign he ran afoul of his friends at the bar association.

Copland entered the judicial race in August of 1935, for the election in November. Despite his late entry, and his previously spotless reputation, his tactics came into question. In our time, it's quite likely that those questionable tactics would not raise an eyebrow, but in that era they were sufficient to spur the bar to action. Turning on him quickly, the bar asked Common Pleas Court to look into the "correctness of the statement of campaign expenditures." Although Copland attempted to block the inquiry with an injunction, his motion was denied.

Shortly after he joined the race, the bar association discovered that some items on his resume regarding law school and dates of passing the New York bar were less fact and more fabrication. Armed with this information, they called for him to immediately withdraw from the judge's race. However, he declined. When the election was over and the final votes were counted, Copland finished 5th in an "elect 5" race, edging out 6th place by 226 votes. Once on the bench, Copland was considered a successful jurist. He earned praise for his handling of traffic court, using civic promotions to encourage safer driving and pedestrian awareness, he was developing into a community leader. Unfortunately, his self destructive tendencies would continue to haunt him.

The Cincinnati based Ohio Law Reporter was a journal that published legal opinions by judges and scholars. Copland sent them a letter with an opinion enclosed, offering it for publication. Rarely were opinions by municipal judges considered for publication, because they seldom set precedents. Copland's was an exception, and was published on August 21, 1939. Almost immediately there were problems. Law students and legal scholars alike live to investigate, and do research. They could not find the case; the case number Copland attributed was of an entirely unrelated suit. No person with the name of either litigant could be found in the Cleveland city directory. Confronted with questions and demands about this case, Judge Copland was forced to admit that in fact, the written opinion he submitted was not about a case he had heard, but one he authored. These days his composition could be used as a short story, book or screenplay. However, in 1936 his composition branded him a fraud.

Calling his behavior reprehensible and questioning his character and honesty, the bar association mounted a campaign seeking his disbarment. Copland fought against several

Copland continued

opponents; the bar, the prosecutors county and city, judges, former judges and the public itself. Eventually, he would be tried and on Friday, May 31, 1940, he was found guilty of having written a fictitious opinion for publication, and of giving false information about his education and practice for election purposes. His disbarment would become official, he would appeal, it was denied and his disbarment was upheld.

Odd as it may seem, in 1940 there was no law forcing a disbarred a judge to leave the bench. The laws of the day were quite explicit on the requirements to become a judge, but no firm requirement that he remain an attorney in good standing. It took a long time and a lot of effort, with a lot of posturing in the newspapers and in courts, but eventually the disbarred lawyer would have to give up his judges' seat. On Monday March 10, 1941, Copland announced that he had sent Governor John W. Bricker his letter of resignation as a judge, to take effect as of April 1, 1941. His resignation was accepted by the governor.

He passed away in 1956 at the age of 68.

David Copland served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1936 to April 1, 1941.

The full version of the Copland story is found elsewhere within these pages.

Alva R. Corlett

Alva Radcliffe Corlett Sr. was born in Warrensville in 1882. He completed his studies at Warrensville High School, Western Reserve Academy and Western Reserve University. He was a member of the House of Representatives 1906-1908. After the House, he came back home to study at the Cleveland Law School, and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1913. He functioned as the secretary to the Service Director of Cleveland from 1918 to 1920. He would perform the same functions as Secretary to the Mayor in 1921.



Corlett won a seat on the municipal court bench for 1922. By 1923, when sitting in the traffic court seat, he began a controversial policy of sending traffic violators to the workhouse. Although he was soundly criticized for this by outside sources, other judges responded with similar sentences. There were 12,339 traffic arrests for the year 1922, with nearly 500 traffic violators sentenced to the workhouse. In 1924, Corlett ran for a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court six year term. Facing the incumbent Alvin J. Pearson, Corlett lost the election. Stephen A. McNeil, Chief Deputy of the Board of Elections, said that although the count had not been completed, there were no serious errors detected. The final tally was a difference of 548 votes. Accusations of voter fraud were made, not just by Corlett, but also by the Socialist Labor Party and the Progressive Candidate for Congress. Despite McNeil's assurances, Pearson's vote total exceeded the total of the judicial slate. The matter of a recount and fraud would end up in the hands of the Court of Appeals. The appellate court ruled against Corlett's first appeal, so he filed more voter depositions in a further appeal. In the end, Corlett was the loser as the appellate court was unmoved. After years of complaints of voter fraud, concentrated in the same wards, the state Attorney General Edward C. Turner, along with Common Pleas Judge Walter McMahan, convened a special grand jury to probe voter fraud. The results of this inquiry would send 2 minor ward leaders to jail, but would yield no meaningful developments.

In 1927, Corlett was re-elected and in 1930, made a successful run for Common Pleas Court. In his time on the bench, he was known as a judge of strong convictions. While on the Common Pleas bench, he frequently made headlines with his controversial commentary, such as "Working wives are the cause of the breaking up of the great American home. Working wives can't raise children, but of course that is not the reason they get married."

His sharp criticism was not reserved for those who appeared before him in court. In a 1929 radio broadcast, he attacked members of the bar for, in his words, making the lawyer's oath "a meaningless matter of form, which accomplishes little so far as justice is concerned." When the Cleveland Bar Association withheld its endorsement from him for the 1948 election, he remarked "judges should have untrammelled judgments and be under obligations to no cliques or groups." After his loss at the polls in 1948, Corlett retired. In all, he spent a combined 26 years as a judge.

He passed away at the age of 78 in 1960.

Alva R. Corlett served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1922 to December 31, 1930.

Eddie Corrigan

Eddie Corrigan's given name was Edward, but he changed it to Eddie because it was more American than the British-sounding Edward. Some called him "Crazy Eddie" because of his sometimes erratic behavior. Others called him brilliant. He bragged on more than one occasion that he was the only judge in Cleveland Municipal Court who was certifiably sane.

The Cleveland native spent part of his youth in El Salvador and Panama, where his father was a diplomat. After graduating from Yale University, Corrigan served in the Army Infantry in the Pacific during World War II, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant. He earned his law degree from the Western Reserve University Law School in 1949 and opened a law practice in Painesville in 1950. During the 1960s, he set up a storefront office on the west side of Cleveland, where his proficiency in the language helped him to serve Spanish speaking clients.

In the 1950s, Corrigan, using his Spanish fluency, dropped in on a mock United Nations convention at Kent State University. He identified himself to a student as the Guatemalan vice consul. Before his adventure was over, the future judge had given a fiery speech in Spanish, which was translated for the crowd by an interpreter.

He was a perennial candidate. For more than 30 years he ran unsuccessfully for both courts and legislatures. When he finally won an election in 1981, it was for an unexpired term to municipal court. Although he lost his bid for re-election in 1983, he gained another seat on the bench in the 1985 election. In 1991, Corrigan ran his last campaign and lost. He was by then prohibited from running for judicial office because of age.

The flamboyant Corrigan, who sheared off his silver-and-black ponytail after winning his first general election, was a civil rights activist in the 1960s. In 1965, he single-handedly attacked the half-completed Federal Office Building on E. 9th St. with a bayonet and a small sheath knife. His midnight raid was part of a protest against contractors whom he charged with racial discrimination in their hiring practices. Guards immediately apprehended him. His punishment was a \$50 fine for destroying government property.

He was arrested for defacing property at Ohio State University after carving the words "World Law" on a table top in the student union. A Columbus judge decided he was observing a campus tradition, and found him not guilty.

In the 1970s, he attempted to march in the St. Patrick's Day parade carrying a replica of a submachine gun, but was stopped by parade coordinators.

He passed away at age 77 in 2000.

Eddie Corrigan served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 7, 1981 to December 31, 1983 as Housing Court Judge, and from January 4, 1986 to January 3, 1992, as an associate judge in the General Division.



Hugh A. Corrigan

Hugh Anthony Corrigan lived a short life but one full of service to his city, county and country. That life began on the west side of Cleveland, but featured a brief detour during high school that led to his graduation from Passionist High in Normandy, Missouri.

Returning to Cleveland, he attended John Carroll University. Following his graduation in 1942, he served 3 years in the Army Air Force as a Transport and Bomber Pilot during World War II. He briefly served as a Veterans Administration Training Officer in 1946 before following his father's example by joining the Cleveland Police Department. While toiling as a member of the police and working part-time in sales with a residential construction firm, he managed to obtain a law degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School. In 1954, he passed the Ohio bar and entered private practice.

Corrigan was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives for 1956. In 1960, he was elected to the municipal court. In 1963, he received the appointment from Governor Michael V. DiSalle to fill an unexpired term on the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. He was successfully elected to the remaining term.

When County Commissioner William P. Day died in 1968, Corrigan was appointed to replace him. As Commissioner, he was the leading proponent of a regional transportation system and during his term the Justice Center was finally built. He was appointed Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Chairman in 1972. He would hold his seat as Commissioner and the party chair until 1976, when he declined to run for re-election. Instead he ran, unsuccessfully, for a seat on the Ohio Court of Appeals, 8th District. After this loss, he would leave public service, entering private practice. "My present intention is not to seek public office again. I'll be helpful to friends but won't get active in leadership of the party."

He passed away in November of 1979 at the age of 58.

Hugh A. Corrigan served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 2, 1960 to January 1, 1963.



John V. Corrigan

John Vincent Corrigan graduated from St. Ignatius High School in 1938 and John Carroll University in 1943. His college years were interrupted by World War II, where he participated in five campaigns in Europe as a Surgical Technician with the Army, earning five Battle Stars. After the war he returned to college at John Carroll, where he was a member of the National Honor Society. In 1948, he earned a law degree from Western Reserve University School of Law and began a private law practice.



Corrigan was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1950. He was serving his second term in the Ohio Legislature when he was appointed by Governor Frank J. Lausche to municipal court in 1953 to fill an unexpired term. He ran successfully for the remainder of the term.

He was a member of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas from 1956 until 1973. After serving three terms on the Ohio Court of Appeals, 8th District, Corrigan retired in 1991. He continued to handle special assignments for the appellate court until 1995.

He passed away in 2005 at the age of 84.

John V. Corrigan served Cleveland Municipal Court from September 25, 1953 to December 31, 1956.

William H. Corrigan

William Howard Corrigan is a native Clevelander who received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from John Carroll University and his law degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School. He was admitted to the bar in 1952.

A World War II Purple Heart veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, he became a lawyer and practiced with his father, William J. Corrigan. Father and son would represent Dr. Samuel Sheppard in his 1954 trial for the murder of his wife Marilyn. Corrigan was also a teacher and counselor at Glenville High School.

In 1989, he was elected to a 6 year term in the Housing Division of the Cleveland Municipal Court. Due to age limits, Corrigan could no longer run for judge; he retired to private practice following his single term.

He passed away on February 1, 2017, at the age of 93.

William H. Corrigan served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 1, 1990 to December 31, 1995.



Daniel B. Cull

Daniel Bartholomew Cull was born in Miamisburg, Ohio, Montgomery County, in 1881. His early education was received in parochial and public schools in Miamisburg. Afterward, he attended Dayton Ohio Business School. He graduated from the Cleveland Law School and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1905. While attending law school, Cull was a successful newspaper reporter and editor, working for both *The Cleveland Press* and *The Plain Dealer*.



His legal career, begun in private practice, moved to public service when he was appointed as an Assistant City Solicitor on April 1, 1907. He remained in that capacity through the end of 1911. Successfully elected as one of the first seven jurists, he took office as a Judge of the Municipal Court of Cleveland on January 1, 1912. He was the first to be assigned to the Criminal Branch, hearing the cases formerly dealt with by Police Court.

In November of 1918, he was successfully elected to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. He was re-elected in 1922, serving 3 more years. On September 1, 1925, he announced his resignation from Common Pleas Court, effective October 1. In his statement he admitted, "My reasons for leaving the bench are largely financial. The salaries paid judges are not commensurate with the responsibilities or the earnings possible to lawyers of ability." During his time on the bench, Cull developed the reputation as a keen student of criminal law and the social conditions related to crime. He was a candidate for the Supreme Court of Ohio in 1920.

Returning to private practice, in January 1932 he was appointed by Acting Mayor and Law Director Harold H. Burton to be a member of the Civil Service Commission.

He passed away in August 1949, at the age of 68.

Daniel B. Cull served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1912 to February 10, 1919.

Arthur H. Day

Arthur Hiram Day was born in the small Putnam County Ohio, town of Pandora, on February 1, 1890. He was the son of a country doctor. After dropping out of college at 19, he worked his way around the world, leaving Ohio for the west with \$6 and returning a year later from the east with \$10.

He returned to college and graduated from Ohio Wesleyan in 1912. While he attended Case Western University School of Law for a year, he graduated from Cleveland Law School in 1916 and was admitted to the bar in 1917. Day worked his way through law school coaching track and football at Case Institute of Technology. In 1916, he made an unsuccessful run for state representative. On the day the United States entered World War I, Day joined the Army. He achieved the rank of Captain in the Infantry of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, and was wounded in action in 1918.

After the war he served 2 years as Assistant Cleveland Law Director, 1919-1920 and 2 terms in the Ohio Senate, 1921-1922 and 1925-1926 as well as his private practice. Elected to municipal court for 1932, he resigned later that year to run for Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. He resigned his seat there in 1934 and was elected to the Ohio Supreme Court, serving from 1935 to 1940. In 1938, he ran for the U. S. Senate against Robert Taft, but lost in the primary. He was defeated in the re-election bid for Supreme Court in 1940. After losing a run for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor in 1941, he returned to Common Pleas Court with a win in 1942.

As Chief Justice of Common Pleas in 1963, he inaugurated pretrial sessions, a concept that won him national renown and was widely copied. It consisted of morning and afternoon talks in open court to groups of litigants and their lawyers where Day would urge compromise. The talks were later followed by supervised negotiations – a system that was credited with many settlements.

Day died before he could begin his fifth consecutive term in Common Pleas Court.

He passed away at the age of 77 in January of 1967.

Arthur H. Day served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1932 to December 31, 1932.



Frank S. Day

Frank S. Day was a native Clevelander, born in 1882. He attended parochial and public elementary schools, St. Ignatius High School and St. Ignatius College (John Carroll). He received his law degree from the Cleveland Law School in 1907. He soon was in private practice.

His public service career began when he was hired as the City Solicitor in 1909. He followed that position with an assignment to the City Prosecutors Office as an Assistant Prosecutor in 1911. By 1914, he was the Chief Police Prosecutor.

He was appointed to the recently created municipal court in 1917 by Governor James M. Cox to fill an unexpired term. Soon after, he was appointed to Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court in 1919. Failing to win the election for the remaining term, he was back in private practice in 1920. Despite lacking bar association support, he was successfully elected in 1931 for municipal court, and once again he would leave quickly. This time, in 1934, when he was elected to Common Pleas, he would hold that seat until his death.

He passed away suddenly at the age of 65 in March of 1948.

Frank S. Day served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from December 16, 1917 to December 31, 1917 and again from January 1, 1932 to December 31, 1934.



John P. Dempsey

John P. Dempsey was born in Bellevue, Ohio in 1878. Educated in public and parochial schools, his instruction was cut short, needing instead to work to help support his large family. He found steady work with the railroads.

A lover of books and thirsty for knowledge, he studied constantly. After 2 years of study at Assumption College in Ontario Canada, he came to Cleveland. Graduating from a business college, he was schooled in the law at Cleveland Law School, graduating and passing the bar in 1907. His legal career began in private practice.

When World War I broke out in 1917, Dempsey was 39 years old, but anxious to be involved. Gaining a Captain's Commission at Fort Benjamin Harrison, he fought in Italy with the 332nd Infantry, and was decorated for bravery under fire.

With the close of the war he was once again in private practice and Chairman of the Cuyahoga County Council of the American Legion. Governor Harry L. Davis appointed him in March of 1921, to be Chief Justice of the Municipal Court of Cleveland, as it was known then. This appointment was made to fill the vacancy created because of the scandal of murder and perjury surrounding Judge William McGannon. Despite the notoriety of the day, he quickly returned the court to a state of normalcy. Re-elected twice, before his term would end he ran successfully for the Court of Common Pleas.

Dempsey studied crime and its prevention, especially among young people. He was an early supporter of the separation of women's cases, and an advocate for the establishment of a detention home for female first offenders. He lobbied for a diagnostic clinic at Central Police Station. His tenure at Common Pleas would last from 1930 until his death.

He passed away in June of 1941 at the age of 63.

John P. Dempsey served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from March 4, 1921 to December 31, 1930.



Don DeRocco

Don DeRocco was born 1915, and attended Alexander Hamilton Junior High, John Adams High School, Fenn College, and Cleveland Marshall Law School. He passed the bar in 1943. He joined the Navy and saw war time service as a Pharmacists Mate in Hawaii.

After the Navy he came home in 1943 to establish himself in private practice, combining a law office and selling real estate through the 1950s. As an Assistant County Prosecutor, he compiled an admirable record in criminal court from 1955 to 1963.

Throughout his life, De Rocco was a willing candidate, running for several offices with similar results. He ran for state representative in 1952, but didn't survive the primary. In 1953, he ran for President of City Council in Euclid but lost in the general election. He ran for a seat on Probate Court in 1960, but failed in the Democratic primary. For Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court in 1962, he won the primary but failed in the general election.

Appointed by Governor Michael V. DiSalle to an unexpired term, he was unsuccessful in running for the remaining term, losing by just 465 votes. While on the municipal bench, he performed the court's 10,000th wedding on October 26, 1963.

He went back to private practice, and took out petitions in 1964 to run again for a seat on Common Pleas Court. He was unsuccessful. DeRocco was the first candidate to file for a new seat on Common Pleas Court to begin in 1969. His candidacy once again did not survive the primary. In 1972, he made a run for Domestic Relations Court, but again he did not survive the primary.

In 1975, the General Assembly created a second judgeship for Bedford Municipal Court, where he had served as an Acting Judge from 1966 to 1975. DeRocco ran for the new permanent seat. The results were the same; he was defeated at the polls. In 1976, he ran his final campaign, an unsuccessful run for Juvenile Court.

He would pass away in 2001 at the age of 86.

Don DeRocco served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 24, 1963 to December 10, 1963.



Lewis Drucker

Lewis Drucker was born in Montreal, Canada, on Christmas Day in 1893. The family came to the United States when Drucker was but an infant. His early schooling came in New York at Harris High School, and the City College of New York, where he graduated in 1912. While attending college, he worked as a news reporter for *The New York American* and *The New York Tribune*.



In 1913, he enrolled in the law school at the University of Chicago, transferring later to the Chicago Kent Law School. In 1914, he came to Cleveland to enter the law school at Western Reserve University. He received his law degree from there in 1916. He was admitted to the Ohio bar that same year, and briefly opened a practice. World War I interrupted his budding legal career. He served as a sergeant in the ammunition section of the American Expeditionary Forces. He was also utilized as a French and German Interpreter. He resumed his private practice in 1919. His first attempt at elected office came in 1920, when he was an unsuccessful candidate for state senator. In addition to his increasingly demanding practice, Drucker became a Professor of Equity and Agency at the Cleveland Law School. He made his first attempt at a municipal court seat in 1929, but was unsuccessful.

Beginning in 1931, Drucker made regular appearances on radio station WJAY. These broadcasts were usually sponsored by the Cleveland Bar Association. He conducted interviews with judges and lawyers on legal matters. Also in 1931, Drucker was appointed as a Professor of Constitutional Law at Cleveland Law School. He assumed this duty in addition to those he had as Professor of Agency, a position he held since 1926. He was also a candidate again for municipal judge, but was again unsuccessful.

In 1933, Drucker would finally be successful in a campaign for municipal court, winning a six year term. In 1934, on his own time and expense, he spent several weeks at the University of Chicago attending special courses on Evidence and the Application of Psychiatry in the Administration of Criminal Justice. As a side trip, Drucker took advantage of his presence in Chicago to study their municipal court, giving particular attention to their handling of juveniles. Drucker also studied the effects of alcohol on the family, on crime and traffic problems at the Yale School of Alcoholic Studies.

Drucker became a continuing contributor to the local newspapers, penning articles on subjects as wide ranging as alcoholism and the after effects of the Nazi occupation of France. His articles would continue until his death. In 1951 he received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Defiance College. Drucker was re-elected in 1939, 1945 and again in 1951, each for another 6 year term.

He passed away in August of 1952 at the age of 59.

Lewis Drucker served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1934 to August 11, 1952.

Dan W. Duffy

Dan W. Duffy was born in Huron, Ohio, where he was a member of a state champion basketball team in 1917. While in college he tried out for the Notre Dame football team. Legendary coach Knute Rockne told him he was too small. He switched to basketball and became a star.

From 1922 through 1928, he coached football, basketball, track and baseball at Cathedral Latin High School while studying law at night. His team won City Championships in 1926 and 1927. By 1929, he left high school athletics for law.

He passed the bar in 1927. In 1928, he joined the Prosecutors Office as an Assistant Prosecutor under Ray T. Miller. When Miller ran successfully for Mayor, he appointed Duffy as Recreation Commissioner. When Miller lost his bid for re-election, Duffy became an Executive Secretary to Governor Martin L Davey.

The governor appointed Duffy to the municipal court in 1935, but he was unsuccessful seeking election to the remaining term. In 1940, he was appointed to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. In 1942, he served as Special Counsel for the Streetcar and Bus Operators Union when the old Cleveland Railway Co. was being taken over by the city. He continued to serve the Elections Board, where he was Chairman of the Board at the time of his death.

He passed away at the age of 72 in May of 1971.

Dan W. Duffy served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from May 16, 1935 to November 15, 1935.



Michelle D. Earley

Michelle Denise Earley attended Ohio State University on a full scholarship and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Information Systems. She then chose to move to Cleveland to attend Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

After graduation in 1999, she joined the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office as an assistant prosecutor. Successfully prosecuting a number of criminal cases, she was made responsible for the training and development of trial lawyers. Earley was the Grand Jury Supervisor when chosen by the governor.

Governor Ted Strickland appointed her to municipal court in 2009 to an unexpired term. She was elected to a full six year term in November of 2011.

Michelle D. Earley has served Cleveland Municipal Court since April 6, 2009.



Ann Marie Feighan

Ann Marie Feighan, from a family synonymous with Cleveland politics and law, is a third generation attorney and the first woman in her family to become a lawyer. Her family has served as prosecutors and congressmen, and includes the late Cleveland Municipal Court Judge Edward Feighan.

She graduated from Magnificat High School, Cleveland State University and Cleveland Marshall College of Law. While studying for the bar, she worked in the Cleveland City Prosecutor's office, joining the staff full time as an attorney on the day she passed the bar. While with the City Prosecutor's Office, she was Director of Mediation, and developed the Domestic Violence and Stalking Protocols, working extensively on the first Legislative Amendment to Ohio's Stalking Law. She had extensive trial court experience, both in misdemeanor court and felony cases with Cuyahoga, Summit and Ashtabula County Courts.

Feighan was appointed by Governor Robert Taft to the municipal court bench in April 2001. However, she was unsuccessful in her run for election, after which she was hired by the court to the position of Magistrate.

Ann Marie Feighan served Cleveland Municipal Court as a judge from April 9, 2001 to November 26, 2001.



Edward F. Feighan

Edward Farrell Feighan was a member of one of Cleveland's pre-eminent political families. He was born in Lakewood in 1909, attended St. Ignatius High School and earned his undergraduate degree at Georgetown University. He received his law degree from Western Reserve University in 1937.

From 1943 until 1946, Feighan served in the U.S. Navy and upon his discharge he was engaged in private practice. He was named a Special Assistant Attorney General of Ohio. He was first elected to the municipal bench to fill an unexpired term in 1947. He would retire after being re-elected to four consecutive full terms.



He passed away in April of 1987 at the age of 78.

Edward F. Feighan served Cleveland Municipal Court from November 25, 1947 to December 31, 1981.

Charles W. Fleming

Charles Walter Fleming, a native Clevelander, earned a bachelor's degree from Kent State University and a law degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School. By the late 1950's, he and George White, a future federal judge, had opened a downtown law practice.

In the 1950's, major law firms hired few, if any, black lawyers. Most were relegated to solo practices or loosely joined forces for a specific trial. Fleming and his colleagues formed the John M. Harlan Law Club, named for the former U.S. Supreme Court Justice who was a staunch defender of racial equality. Those contemporaries included Stanley Tolliver, Carl and Louis Stokes, Merle McCurdy and Granville Bradley. The club, part professional, part social, was where they talked of politics and the practice of law for hours at Rosie's, a soul food restaurant near the Lakeside Courthouse.

As young lawyers out to gain experience are known to do, Fleming switched sides, taking a position in the Prosecutor's Office in 1961.

"Charlie was a very able and very persuasive lawyer in the courtroom," said Rep. Louis Stokes. As a former defense attorney, Stokes faced Fleming, *"We had some real first-rate trials against one another, but we remained close friends."*

By the mid-'60s, he had rejoined the defense. It was then that Fleming and Tolliver found themselves involved in the Cleveland "case of the decade", which held national implications as well. Fred Evans was a Black Nationalist organizer accused of starting the bloody Glenville riot in 1968. In that turbulent time of our past, this case made national news, in print and on air, featuring daily coverage and comment from literally, the courthouse door.

In addition to his time spent with the County Prosecutor from 1961 to 1968, Fleming was Special Assistant to the Attorney General of Ohio from 1969 to 1975 and found time to instruct at Case Western Reserve University.

He was first elected to the municipal court in 1975, and served as Administrative and Presiding Judge. During his tenure the court saw the first efforts at computerization of court records and a variety of alternative sentencing programs. Though primitive by modern standards, computerizing any part of a court in the 1970s was a bold, futuristic step.

"He was a progressive individual who oversaw many innovative programs in the court," said the late Court Administrator John J. O'Toole, who worked with Fleming for 19 years.

He passed away in July of 1994 at the age of 66.

Charles W. Fleming served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 1, 1976 to July 11, 1994.



Perry A. Frey

Perry A. Frey was born in Cleveland in 1895, and was named after Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry. His life was spent as both a distinguished jurist and a dedicated Catholic layman. He attended public and parochial schools, graduating from Loyola High School. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Campion College in Wisconsin.



He engaged in private practice in 1925 after graduation from Marshall Law School. In 1933, he began a 2 year period as an Assistant City Law Director, and in 1935 was a Special Counsel for the Ohio Attorney General here in Cleveland. Appointed Chief Police Prosecutor and serving that office until 1937, he was successful in his first election for the municipal bench. He was re-elected in 1943.

Frey was a leading proponent of the use of night traffic court during World War II as both a way to lessen the crowding during day sessions and to avoid interfering with the work day of offenders who worked in defense industries. His interest in traffic safety led to his chairmanship of the judges and prosecutors section of the National Safety Council.

Frey was a great supporter of Catholic organizations, a founder of the lay retreat movement at the St. Stanislaus Novitiate in Parma. He helped found the Incarnate Word Guild, an aid group for the Sisters of Incarnate Word in Parma Heights, as well as the Villa Marie Circle, in support of the Sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary in Pennsylvania, who staff schools and hospitals, as well as the Rose Mary Home for Crippled Children, where he was a board member.

Frey passed away in August of 1946 at the age of 50.

Perry A. Frey served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 5, 1938 to August 13, 1946.

Brookes Friebolin

Brookes Friebolin had very little time to make an impact upon his position. He was sworn in as a judge just a week prior to his untimely death.

The son of a veteran federal bankruptcy referee and politician, he was born on January 24, 1910. He graduated from East High School in 1927 and enrolled at Yale, where as an undergraduate he was known as "Bill." Matriculating in the Yale Class of 1931, he attended Western Reserve University School of Law where, as class President his Junior and Senior years, earned his law degree in 1934. His admittance to the bar came shortly thereafter.



His legal career began as an Assistant City Law Director. When World War II broke out, Friebolin enlisted in the Army, assigned to Counterintelligence Corps. Overseas in 1943, he was stationed in Africa and throughout Europe as well as post-war Germany. He was awarded 1 citation, 2 medals and 2 battle stars. Discharged from the armed forces in December of 1945, he remained in Bremen, Germany until June of 1946. Returning to the Law Department after the military, he was appointed to the municipal bench by Governor Frank J. Lausche to complete an unexpired term.

He passed away in 1947 at the age of 37, the result of an accidental overdose of carbon monoxide.

Brookes Friebolin had the shortest tenure as a judge of the Municipal Court of Cleveland, serving from January 2, 1947 to January 8, 1947.

Norman A. Fuerst

Norman Anthony Fuerst, a Cleveland native, was a graduate of Collinwood High School in 1942. His college years were interrupted by World War II, when he served with the Navy in the Pacific Theater. After the war, he returned to resume his studies, at John Carroll University where he graduated in 1949 and Cleveland Marshall Law School.

He was elected in 1954 to his first of three terms in the Ohio Legislature. He served as Majority Whip of the Ohio House in 1959 and 1960. While in the House, Fuerst co-authored the bill which created the Ohio Department of Economic Development. He also sponsored the first laws to license and monitor nursing and rest homes in Ohio.

He was appointed by Governor Michael V. DiSalle to the municipal court to fill an unexpired term in 1961, and was successful in his bid for election. He served on the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas bench from 1973 through 1996. After his retirement in 1997, Fuerst continued hearing cases on a part-time basis as a visiting judge.

He passed away at the age of 82 in 2007.

Norman A. Fuerst served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 9, 1961 to December 31, 1972.



Clarence L. Gaines

Clarence Lewellyn Gaines was born in Dallas, Texas in 1914. His formative years were spent in Clarksville, Texas, where as a young boy, he frequently visited a neighbor who was an attorney. These visits inspired him to one day attend law school.

Following an uncle to the Cleveland area at the age of 17, Gaines would enlist in the Army prior to the outbreak of World War II. Rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant, he was sent to Officers Candidate School, where he achieved the rank of Second Lieutenant. Among his assignments was the Aleutian Campaign, serving in the 555th Parachute Battalion. He reached the final rank of First Lieutenant when his military service came to an end.

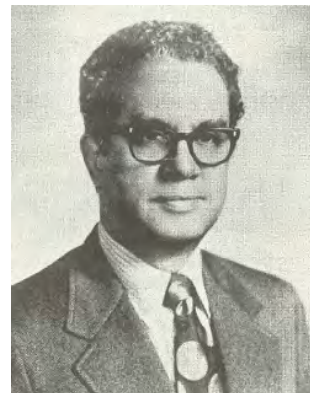
Returning to Cleveland after his military service, he worked as a bellhop at the old Hollenden Hotel while attending Western Reserve University. There he received his B. S. degree in 1950. By working for the Post Office by night and attending Cleveland Marshall Law School by day, he achieved his Juris Doctorate degree in 1955. After passing the bar, he established himself in private practice, and became active in the Glenville community. Elected to city council for 1964, he represented the old Ward 25. During his second term, he was appointed by Mayor Ralph Locher to the cabinet post of Director of Health and Welfare.

Following his cabinet post, Gaines returned to private practice, eventually becoming senior partner in a very high profile African-American law firm.

In 1973, he was appointed to the municipal court bench by Governor John Gilligan. In 1978, when the FBI raided municipal court he was misidentified as a central figure in a case fixing scheme. After being completely cleared of any wrong doing, he sought retribution from the FBI through litigation, but finding a lawyer willing to sue the FBI proved difficult. In 1982, faced with age limits forbidding his re-election, he made an unsuccessful run for Common Pleas Court. At the end of 1982, he resigned his municipal court seat to seek one term as Housing Judge. Winning his seat on the Housing bench, Gaines would resign before his term ended for one last run, this time for the school board. That run was unsuccessful, and afterward he retired from public life.

He passed away in June of 2014 at the age of 100.

Clarence Gaines served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 26, 1973 to December 31, 1982 as a General Division Judge, and as the Judge of Housing Court from January 1, 1984 to August 23, 1989.



Sean C. Gallagher

Sean Christopher Gallagher graduated from St. Edward High School. He received his B.A. degree from Ohio University and his J.D. degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law.

Gallagher invested years gaining experience in all areas of the Ohio justice system. He, literally, worked his way up from the “ground floor,” having started as a janitor cleaning courtrooms at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court while home on break from college. His career includes working with underprivileged children at the Metzenbaum Center in Cleveland and those incarcerated at the Youth Development Center in Hudson. His service features stints as a Juvenile Probation Officer in Cuyahoga County and as a Common Pleas Court Bailiff. As a member of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office, he served in the Economic Crime Unit, and as a Felony Trial Prosecutor.

He was elected to municipal court in 1997, and to the Ohio 8th District, Court of Appeals in 2003, a position he presently holds.

Sean C. Gallagher served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 3, 1998 to February 8, 2003.



Chester K. Gillespie

Chester K. Gillespie was born in Home City, Ohio. His family moved to Cleveland about 1909. After attending Ohio State University, Gillespie earned a law degree from Baldwin Wallace College Law School in 1920.

He was an Assistant Law Director for Cleveland in 1921 and soon became a prominent civil-rights attorney in Cleveland, bringing antidiscrimination suits against theater, restaurant, and amusement park owners.

Although many of Gillespie's antidiscrimination suits were unsuccessful, they were influential to him as he served his 3 terms in the Ohio General Assembly (1933-1934, 1939-1940, 1943-1944). He sponsored legislation extending Ohio's Civil-Rights Law to prohibit discrimination in retail establishments, and included in the liquor laws a provision making racial discrimination grounds for revoking a liquor license. He was President of the local chapter of the NAACP (1936-1937); and led the fight for downtown office space for black lawyers and other professionals in the 1930's and 1940's. During World War II, he served in the U. S. Army.

Gillespie was a member of the Republican State Central Committee and a delegate to national conventions (1948, 1968). He was appointed to the State Board of Education in 1963, and later won an election to complete that term. In 1965, he was appointed to fill an unexpired term to the municipal court position of Chief Justice. Unfortunately, the appointment came too late for him to file for the election. After much debate and opinionating, the election board ruled he could not be considered as a write in, so he was left keeping the seat for a very short time. Gillespie retired from law and politics in 1971 and moved to Los Angeles, California.

He passed away in 1985 at the age of 88.

Chester K Gillespie served Cleveland Municipal Court from October 20, 1965 to December 1, 1965.



Thomas E. Greene

Thomas E. Greene was born on Birch Street, which is now West 50th St. in 1874. He was educated at St. Patrick's and St. Colman's elementary schools. At 15, he became a car checker at the Lindale yards of the Big 4 Railroad – later he was a clerk in the railroad freight office.

By attending night classes he was able to graduate from the Cleveland Law School in 1901. He was admitted to the bar in 1901, and began his law career in private practice.

Two years after passing the bar he was elected a Justice of the Peace in 1903. He had an office at City Hall, where Cleveland justices handled civil cases until 1905. Although he returned to private practice, it was not long before he took a position as an Assistant County Prosecutor under John A. Cline.

He ran unsuccessfully for municipal court in 1919, but Governor Harry L. Davis appointed him to fill an unexpired term in 1922. He was successfully elected for two additional terms.

He passed away at the age of 61 in 1935.

Thomas E. Greene served in the Municipal Court of Cleveland from December 1, 1922 to May 12, 1935.



Burt W. Griffin

Burt Wylie Griffin was born in 1889 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Coming to the Cleveland area, his family settled in the E. 55th and Superior area. His education was gained at Stanard Elementary and both East and Glenville High Schools. He studied law at night while working as a time keeper at the Jones & Laughlin Steel Company. Studying at both John Marshall and Cleveland Law Schools, he received his degree from the latter. Admitted to the bar in 1921, his passing grade on the exam was the highest mark ever achieved up to that time.



World War I found Griffin in the U.S. Army, serving from 1917 to 1919, attaining the rank of First Lieutenant. That same time frame found Mary W. Wagner, a nurse and Griffin's future wife, serving overseas with the Lakeside Hospital Unit. During World War II, he was the coordinator of the War Price and Rationing Boards in Cuyahoga County. At the time, Mayor Frank Lausche and others in the government felt there would be fewer civilian complaints about rationing if those on the ration boards were elected officials, and that judges would receive the fewest complaints.

His legal career was spent in private practice until 1925, when he was appointed Chief Police Prosecutor. He would leave there in 1927, when he was elected to municipal court. During this period, there was harmony in more ways than one among elected officials. Griffin was part of a singing quartet that included County Treasurer Walter E. Cook, Assistant Treasurer Thomas Dwyer, and then State Senator Arthur Day.

In 1930, Griffin was appointed by Governor Myers Y. Cooper to the position of Chief Justice, and would lead the court for the next fifteen years. In 1946, he was elected to Common Pleas Court.

He passed away at the age of 60 in 1949.

Burt W. Griffin served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1928 to December 1, 1946.

Mary B. Grossman

Mary Belle Grossman was born in Cleveland in 1879 and studied at the Euclid Avenue Business College. She began her career working 16 years as a stenographer and bookkeeper in her cousin's law office.

She decided she wanted to become a lawyer, but this kind of ambition was unheard of at that time. When, she said later, she was told women could not make good lawyers, she promptly enrolled in the Cleveland Law School at Baldwin Wallace College. She received her law degree and passed the Ohio bar examination in 1912. At that time, she was only the third female lawyer in Cleveland and in 1918, was one of the first 2 women admitted to membership in the American Bar Association. Grossman maintained a private Cleveland practice from 1912-1923.

She was active in women's suffrage and was chairwoman of the League of Woman's Suffrage. Once women won the vote, Grossman decided to run for municipal judge. Her first attempt was a loss in 1921, but in 1923 was successful, becoming the first woman municipal judge in the United States. She served on traffic court and organized the morals court in 1926, serving there until her retirement.

As a judge, Grossman earned a reputation as "a severe, rigidly honest jurist, sometimes irreverently referred to as Hardboiled Mary." When she took a day off to observe a Jewish holiday in 1927, 39 bail jumpers reportedly turned themselves in so they would not have to face her. She was re-elected repeatedly until 1959, when she retired at age 80. She was said to be so strict in her courtroom, that Edwin D. Barry, when he was Safety Director, said she was equal to adding 100 policemen to the force.

She passed away in 1977 at the age of 97.

Mary B. Grossman served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1924 to December 31, 1959.



Emanuella Groves

Emanuella Darlene Groves grew up in Canton, Ohio and came to Cleveland in 1978 to attend Case Western Reserve Law School. She had graduated from Canton McKinley High School in 1975, and in three years graduated with honors from Kent State University with a bachelor's degree in business management.

Groves' legal career began as an Assistant Police Prosecutor for the City of Cleveland. In 1983, she was staff attorney for Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority. By 1988, she rose through the ranks to Assistant Deputy Director of Administrative Services.

In 2001, after over a decade in private practice, she was elected to municipal court, and has been re-elected without opposition twice. In addition to developing the Get on Track Program to assist men and women who are in need of basic social and academic skills, she currently presides over the Specialized Mental Health Docket.

Emanuella Groves has served Cleveland Municipal Court since December 7, 2001.



Sara J. Harper

Sara Juanita Harper received her undergraduate and law degrees from Case Western Reserve University. Her legal career included periods in private practice, as a Cleveland Prosecutor, and as an Assistant Director of Law. In 1970 she ran unsuccessfully for the House of Representatives. Additionally, she served on the judiciary of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, attaining the rank of Major.

As president of the Cleveland NAACP in the early 1980s, Harper fought against strip searches by police of female NAACP members who were arrested for minor traffic infractions, and co-founded the first victims' rights program in the country.

She was appointed to the bench of municipal court by Governor James A. Rhodes in 1970 to fill an unexpired term. She was successfully elected to an additional term. Resigning her seat, she was replaced by her husband George Trumbo. Later Harper would run successfully for another seat, which she would also leave prematurely, having been elected to the 8th District Court of Appeals.

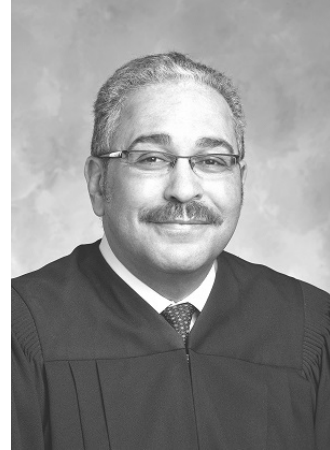
Sara J. Harper served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 14, 1971 to March 12, 1982, and again from January 1, 1986 to February 11, 1991.



James H. Hewitt III

James Howard Hewitt III was born and raised in Cleveland, receiving his education from St. Ignatius High School, Macalester College where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Economics, and finally at Cleveland State University, Cleveland Marshall College of Law, where he was awarded his Juris Doctorate.

In private practice Hewitt has represented individuals, businesses, corporations, non-profit institutions and governmental bodies. His resume includes litigation experience in real estate, contract and commercial law, labor and employment, tort, and landlord-tenant issues. His public service experience includes terms as Law Director for the City of East Cleveland from 1990 to 1998; Panel Commissioner for the Court of Claims Crime Compensation Division (1988-2006) and the Ohio Board of Bar Examiners (2009-2014). Most recently, he served as Master Commissioner for the U.S. District Court in Northern Ohio, overseeing court-ordered foreclosure sales. He was appointed by Governor John Kasich in 2015 to fill an unexpired term. He was defeated in the election for a new term.



James Howard Hewitt III served Cleveland Municipal Court from March 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

George A. Howells Sr.

George A. Howells Sr. was born in Youngstown in 1876, but following the death of his father when he was 3, his family moved to Justis, Ohio. His early education was gained there. He moved to his grandfather's home in Massillon to complete his high schooling at Massillon High. He graduated from The Ohio State University Law School, and was admitted to the bar in 1900. Howells established a law practice with a partner, and served 2 terms as the Massillon City Solicitor.



Looking to expand his opportunities, he dissolved his partnership and moved his practice to Cleveland. Here he was one of the original incorporators of the Cleveland Auto Cab Company in 1908. In 1911, he made his first attempt at public office, an unsuccessful run for municipal court.

He joined the County Prosecutors Office as an Assistant Prosecutor for a period beginning in 1913. He made another attempt at municipal court in 1915, with the same unfortunate result. He was named First Assistant County Prosecutor, in charge of the Civil Branch in 1918. This position made him the chief legal advisor to the county commissioners.

Howells was appointed by Governor James M. Cox in 1919 to the municipal court to fill an unexpired term. Although Howells was an incumbent, he failed at the polls in 1921. He tried once more for municipal court, unsuccessfully running again in 1923. At this time, Howells married, and moved to Glendale, California, where he again went into private practice.

Apparently, all was not gold in California, for the Howells returned to Massillon, where he ran for office, becoming just the fourth judge in the brief history of the Massillon Municipal Court, beginning his service in 1932. On January 1, 1940, he retired from the bench and from his legal career.

He passed away in 1948 at the age of 71.

George A. Howells Sr. served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1919 to December 31, 1921.

Bradley Hull

Bradley Hull was born in 1880, within a block of Public Square. At 20, working his way through Adelbert College, he became a campaign spokesman for Mayor Tom L. Johnson. Working his way through college taking a combination of arts and law courses proved too much for his nerves. He was ordered by a doctor to take a year off from college.

Hull found employment in the iron mines and logging camps of the Mesabi Range in northern Minnesota. He often told friends that the year in the north was the most valuable in his career, because it influenced his attitudes the rest of his life.

Returning to Cleveland in 1910, he finished his coursework at Western Reserve University Law School, passing the bar in 1910. He was to become a devoted advocate of free speech, for the rights of the downtrodden, and for the guarantees of the U.S. Constitution.

His first legal experience, beginning in 1910, was gained as an attorney for the Humane Society, dedicated to the protection of mothers and children. In 1920, he founded and was the first Director of the Cuyahoga County Bureau of Domestic Relations. He also devoted some time as Director of the Legal Aid Society. He was an early advocate for a psychiatric clinic in the county.

In 1924, Hull was elected to municipal court, and he would not leave for the next 21 years. Sadly, he passed away of a cerebral hemorrhage at Charity Hospital, after collapsing in his chambers.

He passed away in 1945 at the age of 65.

Bradley Hull served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1924 to May 3, 1945.



Thomas S. Ireland

Thomas Sexton Ireland was a millionaire, a gentleman farmer, author and a Republican. He was born on Willson St. (now East 55th) near Cedar Ave. His father was a salesman for the Grasselli Chemical Company. (now part of E.I. DuPont de Nemours Co.)



Attending Princeton, Boston and Harvard Universities, Ireland graduated from Harvard Law School in 1927. He practiced law briefly in New York City, returning to Cleveland and passing the Ohio Bar.

During the 1920's, Ireland served in the Army with the 331st Infantry Regiment, and became a member of the Reserve Officers Corps. In the late 1920s, as a skilled linguist, he wrote a weekly column on foreign affairs for the Italian newspaper Corriere de Ohio.

In 1934, inspired by field trips during his college years, he wrote his first book, St. Lawrence, Deep Waterway To The Sea. In 1936 when curious about steel mills, he took a job as a laborer at Republic Steel and joined the Bridge, Structural & Iron Workers Union Local 468. His labor experiences inspired another book, Child Labor as a Relic of the Dark Ages.

In 1937, he was elected to an unexpired term as judge in municipal court. His term on the bench would last about six weeks. He also ran unsuccessfully for the Ohio General Assembly.

In 1942, he served as an officer at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. At the end of his service he had attained the rank of Captain.

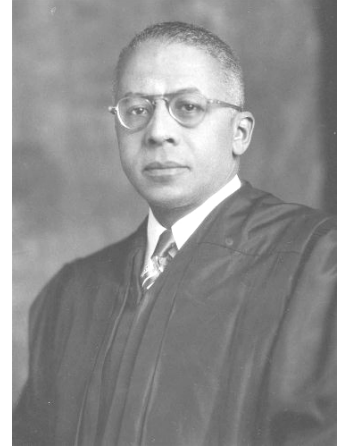
His interest in international affairs took him throughout Europe and Asia and he met many heads of state, including Chiang Kai-shek and Anthony Eden. His overseas travels produced 2 more books, War Clouds in the Skies of the Far East in 1935 and Ireland, Past and Present in 1942. In 1948 while traveling in Europe, he served as a correspondent for several newspapers, including *The Plain Dealer*.

In 1959, as a Republican candidate he ran unsuccessfully for Mayor against Anthony J. Celebrezze.

Always an avid swimmer, he passed away while in the water in Hawaii in March of 1969 at the age of 71.

Thomas S. Ireland served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from November 13, 1937 to December 31, 1937.

Perry B. Jackson



Perry Brooks Jackson was a native of Zanesville, Ohio, who, after graduating from high school, worked a summer in a steel mill. He came to Cleveland in hopes to go to college. He worked another year in a steel mill before enrolling in Adelbert College of Western Reserve University. He received his degree in 1919.

He followed that with Western Reserve University Law School, where he graduated in 1922. He set out to make a liar out of the law school dean who said that no large law firm will hire a Negro. Unfortunately the dean was right. *“After about a month of job hunting I had less than a dollar in my pocket,”* Jackson said on his 70th birthday. *“An uncle gave me an old desk and chair and I started my own practice in the anteroom of another Negro lawyer’s office.”*

From 1923-1927 Jackson worked as an editor for of the city’s black newspaper, *The Cleveland Call*, working his way up to Editor, a position he left when *The Cleveland Call* merged with *The Cleveland Post* to become *The Call and Post*. He ran for State Representative in 1928 on the Republican ticket and became the first African-American in Cuyahoga County to win a county wide election. While in the legislature, he was responsible for the adoption of voter registration forms that had no reference to race or color. In 1933, he served as a City Councilman and lost election for a state Senate seat in 1934. He was appointed as an Assistant Police Prosecutor, and rose to the Chief Police Prosecutor position by 1941. After a short stint as Executive Secretary to the Public Utilities Director, Governor John W. Bricker appointed him to fill an unexpired term in municipal court in 1942.

Jackson was unsuccessful in his first re-election bid. He ran again, this time successfully, for a municipal court seat in 1944. He remained there until winning a seat to the Domestic Relations division of Common Pleas Court in 1960. In 4 years he gained a seat on the general Common Pleas bench. Although he was forced to retire due to statute in 1973 at the age of 77, he continued to work as a visiting judge and arbiter until shortly before his death.

Jackson once told a reporter that he seldom was made aware of racial discrimination, but he recalled an incident from back in the 1930’s. Officials of the Cuyahoga County Bar Association were meeting in the Hollenden Hotel in 1935. When a group tried to go into the main dining room Jackson was refused admittance. He later successfully sued the hotel, receiving \$350 in damages. *“They never did that again.”*

He often objected to being referred to as the first black judge in Ohio. *“The idea of ‘the first Negro’ is more often annoying than amusing. One has hardly heard of the first Italian, or the first Jew, to hold office. Only the first Negro.”*

He passed away in 1986 at age 90.

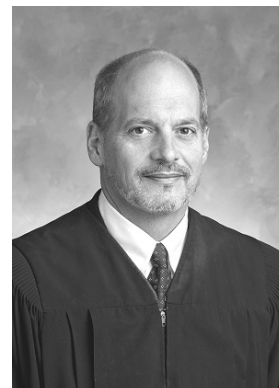
Perry B. Jackson served Cleveland Municipal Court from August 22, 1942 to December 31, 1943 and again from January 2, 1946 to January 7, 1961.

Jimmy L. Jackson Jr.

Jimmy Leslie Jackson Jr. grew up in Kent, Ohio where he attended public schools and graduated from the University of Akron with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History.

His early career Path was in corporate management when he opted for law school. While obtaining his degree from the University of Akron School of Law he was also the stay at home father to his 3 sons. Hired as a staff attorney in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, he was involved with juvenile, criminal and collection cases.

Accepting an appointment as a Magistrate in the Foreclosure Division, he served the Common Pleas Court for more than 11 years when in December of 2016, he accepted an appointment from Governor John Kasich to serve on the Cleveland Municipal Court.



Jimmy L. Jackson Jr. began serving Cleveland Municipal Court on January 3, 2017.

Harry Jaffe

Harry Jaffe, whose career in public service lasted more than six decades, was born in Russia. He considered a career in medicine, but his thoughts moved to law so he could take up the battle of the underprivileged.

His education was obtained from Ohio State, the University of Michigan and from Western Reserve University School of Law. Upon passing the bar, he took a post as an Assistant Police Prosecutor. In 1939, he left the Prosecutor's Office when he was elected to Cleveland City Council to represent Ward 25 (Glenville). His brother Solomon would replace him on the council after he was drafted into the Army after the outbreak of World War II.

In the Army Jaffe served with the 60th Troop Carrier Group. He was an Executive Officer of the Combat Air Force Squadron and received the Bronze Star Medal.

After the war, he resumed his place in City Council until 1957 when Gov. C. William O'Neill appointed him judge for municipal court. He moved to Common Pleas Court in 1963, retiring in 1997 at the age of 89.

He passed away in 1999 at the age of 91.

Harry Jaffe served Cleveland Municipal Court from April 30, 1957 to January 5, 1963.



Mabel M. Jasper

Mabel Jean Mathews Jasper is a native of Alabama who moved to Cleveland when she was ten years old. She excelled in school and graduated from Glenville High at the age of 16. In just three years, she earned a bachelor's degree with a teaching certificate from Kent State University.

A first job as a substitute teacher at John Burroughs Elementary School at age 19 became a career of twenty years, molding the young minds in grades three through six.

In 1973 at the age of 39, Jasper wanted another challenge. She enrolled in the Cleveland Marshall College of Law and graduated three years later. Passing the bar, she worked in private practice and served as General Counsel for a local savings and loan association. From there, she became an Assistant Attorney General and trial attorney for the Bureau of Worker's Compensation. She served as a magistrate at Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court. After four years, she decided it was time to run for office. Elected to municipal court in 1987, she was re-elected continuously until forced to retire by statute. Jasper has continued to serve the court as a visiting judge since her retirement.

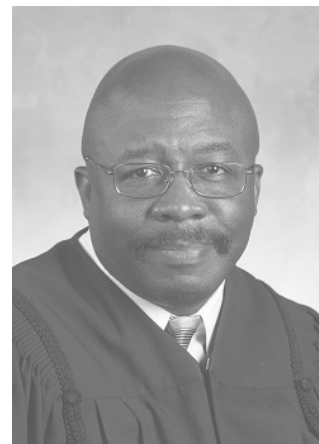


Mabel M. Jasper served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 5, 1988 to December 31, 2005.

Larry A. Jones Sr.

Larry Antonio Jones Sr. showed his leadership abilities early on, when at Glenville High School, he was elected President of the Student Council. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Wooster and his Juris Doctorate from the Case Western Reserve University Law School.

After law school, he served as an assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor and won a seat on the Cleveland City Council. After serving 6 years as Ward 10 Councilman, he was elected to municipal court in 1987, and re-elected to three additional terms. While on the Cleveland Municipal Court, Judge Jones was selected by his colleagues to serve as judge of the Greater Cleveland Drug Court for 11 years, and as the Presiding and Administrative Judge for 14 years.



Jones was elected to the Eighth District Court of Appeals in 2008.

Larry A. Jones Sr. served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 1, 1987 to January 31, 2009.

Stephanie Tubbs Jones

Stephanie Tubbs Jones established a number of “firsts” in her remarkable but regrettably short career. She was born in Cleveland and graduated from Collinwood High School in 1967. She completed her undergraduate work at Case Western Reserve University four years later, gaining a Bachelor degree in Sociology and her law degree from Case Western Reserve University Law School, passing the Ohio bar in 1974.

Her first experience as a lawyer was gained with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District as Assistant General Counsel and Equal Employment Opportunity Administrator.

In 1976, she became a Cuyahoga County Assistant Prosecutor. Three years later, she was hired by the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as a trial attorney.

Elected a municipal court judge in 1982, a year later she would become the first African American woman to serve as a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas judge.

In 1991, she became the first African American woman to serve as Cuyahoga County Prosecutor.

In 1998 she accomplished her greatest “first” when she became the first African American woman elected to Congress in Ohio. While serving in Congress, she held the prestigious chairs of both the Congressional Black Caucus and the House Ethics Committee.

She died suddenly of a brain aneurysm at the age of 58 in 2008.

Stephanie Tubbs Jones served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 3, 1982 to April 8, 1983.



Edward F. Katalinas

Edward Francis Katalinas was a graduate of John Carroll University and received his law degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School.

Prior to his election to the court, he served as City Councilman from 1962 to 1971.

During his tenure with municipal court, Judge Katalinas was Administrative Judge 5 years and Presiding Judge six years.

His 22 year political career came to an end when he lost his race for re-election in November of 1995. For his tenure at the court, many will recall him as an honorable and praiseworthy jurist. However, in 1996, any hope for a return to elected office came to a sad end.

Katalinas was entangled in a very public trial when he was accused of assaulting his mistress in a domestic dispute. The case boiled down to a he said/she said matter; he never denied the affair but strenuously denied the assault. For her side, the mistress insisted she was severely beaten, but there was no evidence of bruising or bleeding. He testified that when he told her there was no hope of marriage for them, she became enraged and threatened to leap off her balcony. She testified he wanted to marry her but she tried to end the affair. She claimed he beat her for 2 hours in her apartment.

An 8 member jury took 45 minutes to find Katalinas Not Guilty of all charges. For his ordeal, Katalinas described the affair that began during his last election as *“a crucial embarrassment.”* He added, *“after 30 years in a political and legal career, I still believe the criminal justice system can find the truth. There is nothing better than the jury system to sort out the truth.”* The mistress, reacting to the disappointing verdict said, *“I still think the case is about the abuse of power, he beat the hell out of me and got away with it.”* She had lost a similar case in 1995.

Although victorious in his assault case, Katalinas' time before a civil court was not yet over. In 1999, he was sued for \$19,000 for legal fees stemming from the 1996 assault trial. Separately, he was sued for over \$300,000 by a client, a close personal friend, who had provided him with a power of attorney for the management of his financial affairs. Additionally, there were 2 minor civil matters seeking the return of fees.

Judgments in each case favored the plaintiffs. Complaints against him reached the Cleveland Bar Association, generating a disciplinary case with the Ohio Supreme Court. Once again, judgment was rendered against him, leading to his subsequent disbarment in September of 2000.

Edward F. Katalinas served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 1, 1972 to December 31, 1995.



Kathleen Ann Keough

Kathleen Ann Keough was born and raised in the greater Cleveland area. Her undergraduate work was accomplished at Youngstown State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and History in 1983. She earned a Juris Doctorate from Cleveland Marshall School of Law in 1987.

Keough worked in the Cuyahoga County Office of the Public Defender for 10 years. Her time with the public defender gave her vast experience, appearing in the Juvenile, Felony and Appellate divisions of the courts.

She was elected to the municipal court in 1995 for the balance of an unexpired term, and re-elected for two additional terms.

In 2010, Keough was successful in a run for the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals.

Kathleen Ann Keough served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 1, 1996 to December 31, 2010.



William C. Keough

William C. Keough was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1882. He graduated from Harvard University and Western Reserve University School of Law.

Toiling throughout the early years of the 1900's establishing himself in the practice of law, he became a well known partner in a prominent law firm.

He was a member of the Civil Service Commission from 1914 to 1916. In 1917, he was appointed to the municipal bench by Governor James M. Cox. He was elected to the remaining term, but retired before the term ended.

In 1929, he was a member of the Progressive Government Committee. This committee was largely responsible for the drive to defeat an amendment which would have ended the city manager plan of government that was in control at that time.

He was one of the original members of the Cleveland Transit Board, serving from 1943 to 1954.

He passed away at the age of 81 in 1963.

William C. Keough served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from February 1, 1917 to January 31, 1918.



Mary Eileen Kilbane

Mary Eileen Kilbane earned her undergraduate degree from John Carroll University and her J.D. degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law. Fresh from law school, she went to work as a Cuyahoga County Assistant Public Defender for 9 years, representing indigent criminal defendants, primarily in Common Pleas Court.

Elected to municipal court, she served a full term and was re-elected to a second term, but chose to run for the Eighth District Court of Appeals. As of this writing, she was in her second term on the Appellate Court.



Mary Eileen Kilbane served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 2, 1995 to December 31, 2004.

Andrew M. Kovachy

Andrew M. Kovachy was born in Austria-Hungary in 1889, the son of a lawyer turned minister of the Hungarian Reformed Church. His grandfather had been a member of the Supreme Court of Austria-Hungary. His family came to this country when he was 6 years old. He was the older brother of Julius, a municipal and an appellate judge. He earned his law degree in 1914 from Cleveland Law School when it was a part of Baldwin Wallace College.

In World War I he served with distinction in the 64th Regiment of the Coast Guard Artillery.

Before taking the bench, Kovachy was primarily engaged in the private practice of law, but he also served as an Assistant Chief Probation Officer in Juvenile Court. His initial judicial service consisted of being elected to a 6 week stint on the Common Pleas Court bench in 1936. In 1945, his brother Julius Kovachy, then on the municipal court bench, was appointed to Common Pleas Court. Ralph Vince was appointed to serve out Julius' unexpired term. When Vince ran for the remaining term, Andrew Kovachy defeated him, taking over his brother's vacated seat. It was a position he would retain until his retirement in 1959, when he relocated to Phoenix, Arizona.

He passed away at the age of 73 in 1962.

Andrew M. Kovachy served Cleveland Municipal Court from November 26, 1945 to December 31, 1959.



Julius M. Kovachy

Julius M. Kovachy was born in Austria-Hungary in 1893, coming to the United States as a 1 year old boy. His father was a lawyer who became a minister of the Hungarian Reformed Church, and his grandfather had been a member of the Supreme Court of Austria-Hungary. His schooling found him in Chicago, Illinois, Wallingford, Connecticut, and finally Cleveland. Here, Central High School led him to the University of Pennsylvania, where he received his B.S. in Chemistry in 1917.



Two years in research for Westinghouse Lamp Company in New Jersey led him back to Cleveland in 1919, working for the Grasselli Chemical Company. While working as a chemist for the city of Cleveland, he was encouraged to study law by his older brother Andrew, who was a practicing attorney. He received his degree from the Cleveland Law School at Baldwin Wallace College. Leaving chemistry for the law, he began his legal career as an Assistant City Prosecutor, and was named Chief Police Prosecutor in 1927. That same year saw him receive his Master of Laws degree from Marshall Law School.

In 1930, he was elected to the municipal court, serving 15 years before moving to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas for 9 years. In 1952, Kovachy was elected an Appellate Judge of the Ohio Court of Appeals, Eighth District, eventually becoming the Presiding Judge.

Kovachy never gave up the world of chemistry. In his home laboratory, he developed and patented a cleaner once used throughout the world for the purpose of cleaning architectural stone. Used on granite, concrete, limestone, marble or brick, the product took him 35 years of experimentation and testing. The product was used on the Wade Memorial Chapel in Lake View Cemetery, the National Amphitheater in Washington D. C., and the Plaza Hotel in New York City and Independence Hall in Philadelphia. For the Wade Chapel, Judge Kovachy often mixed the chemicals in his lab at home and dropped off a days supply on his way to the courthouse. He patented the product in many countries.

After nearly 37 years on various courts, Kovachy retired in 1966.

He passed away in 1982 at the age of 99.

Julius M. Kovachy served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1930 to January 1, 1945.

Samuel E. Kramer

Samuel E. Kramer was born December 4, 1878 in Newark, Ohio. He received his education in Cleveland at Brownell School, Central High and Adelbert College of Western Reserve University, where he graduated in 1900. Western Reserve University Law School conferred upon him his law degree in 1903.

In addition to his private practice, he was active in politics in the 22nd Ward. First as president of the 22nd Ward Republican Club, and later serving the ward as City Councilman from 1908 to 1911.

Kramer was elected in 1911, in the first group of judges at its inception of the Municipal Court of Cleveland, as it was known then. During his tenure, he was an early proponent of the probation department, which he saw as an effort *“to spare certain offenders confinement, yet have them answer for their conduct as free citizens.”*

Elected to Common Pleas Court in 1918, he lobbied for the psychiatric clinic and for a criminal identification bureau. Later he was known as an authority on real estate law.

Kramer completed his sixth consecutive term on the Common Pleas Court bench, the last 8 years as Chief Justice, and retired on January 1, 1955. His tenure on the bench was one of the longest in Ohio history.

He passed away in 1960 at the age of 82. At his passing, Common Pleas Chief Justice Samuel H. Silbert said, *“Judge Kramer was one of the best liked and best natured men in public service. If he had a fault, if you call it that, he was too kind.”*

Samuel E. Kramer served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1912 to December 31, 1918.



Arthur Krause

Arthur Krause was a graduate of Central High School, Western Reserve University and Ohio State University. He graduated from Cleveland Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1919. He established himself in private practice. In addition, he was a representative of the state attorney general from 1929 to 1936.

Krause ran unsuccessfully for Congress in the 20th District in 1940. He ran and won two six week interim terms in municipal court as well as a six week term in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

In addition to his private practice, Krause served as a Trustee of the Cuyahoga County Bar Association and gave service to United Appeals for more than 30 years.

He passed away in 1964 at the age of 66.

Arthur Krause served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from November 16, 1935 to December 31, 1935 and again from November 11, 1937 to December 31, 1937.



Blanche E. Krupansky

Blanche Ethel Krupansky was one of the few judges to serve on four levels of Ohio courts. She was a pioneer, paving the way for women to succeed in the law and the judiciary.

She was born in Cleveland in 1925, and graduated from West High School. She did her college undergraduate work at Flora Stone Mather College of Western Reserve University, graduating in 1947. She was the only woman in her class when she entered Western Reserve University School of Law in 1946. She received her law degree two years later, and began in private practice.



Krupansky served as an Assistant Ohio Attorney General in 1954 and was the Assistant Chief Counsel for the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation 1958-1959. When she ran unsuccessfully for her first political office in 1959, she had to fight in court for the right to appear on the ballot under her maiden name. She was married to Cleveland attorney Frank Vargo.

Although she lost her first attempt at a court seat, she was back in two years, this time successfully elected to municipal court in 1961. While on the municipal bench, she earned her Master of Laws degree in 1966. In 1969, she again was successful, moving to Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, where she served for eight years. In 1977, another successful election and she became the first woman to serve on the Ohio Court of Appeals, 8th District.

Krupansky, a Republican, was appointed by Governor James A. Rhodes in 1981 to the Ohio Supreme Court, becoming the second woman to serve on the court in its 185-year history. After being defeated in 1983, Rhodes returned her to the appellate court with another appointment. She served on the appeals court through 1995, when she retired after 32 years of judicial service.

She passed away at the age of 82 in 2008.

Blanche E. Krupansky served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 5, 1961 to January 9, 1969.

Leon A. Kujawski

Leon A. Kujawski was born in Posen, Poland in 1883, and came to America three years later as a small child. He received his undergraduate degree from St. Ignatius College in Chicago and his law degree from Cleveland Law School, passing the bar and establishing a private practice in 1913. His specialty was labor law.

He was appointed to the municipal bench in 1933 to fill an unexpired term which ended that same year. In 1935, he was elected to City Council from Ward 7. 1938 saw him add a position on the State Liquor Control Board to his resume. In 1940, he was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress.

Along with his private practice, Kujawski was the founder and attorney for the Lincoln Heights Savings & Loan and attorney for the Southeast Savings & Loan Association.

He passed away in 1963 at the age of 80.

Leon A. Kujawski served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from September 2, 1933 to November 21, 1933.



Frank J. Lausche

Frank John Lausche broke through an ethnic barrier when he became Cleveland's first mayor of Eastern European descent with his election in 1941.

The son of Slovenian immigrants, Lausche began his career in politics with an appointment to the court in the 1930s. By the time his career ended, he had served in all three branches of government: He was a two-term U.S. Senator, a five-term Governor, a two-term Mayor and a judge of both Municipal and Common Pleas courts.



Lausche was a Democrat on the ballot but many called him a Dixiecrat because he repeatedly bucked his party, offended organized labor and regularly endorsed Republicans. His independence, however, sat well with voters who consistently returned the bushy-browed maverick to office.

His life recorded a major milestone when he made the decision not to pursue a baseball career. He was a minor-league third baseman but abandoned plans to pursue the dream of a future in the game. Instead, he enrolled in John Marshall Law School, graduating in 1920. Afterward, he joined a politically connected law firm. His political life began in 1932 when he was appointed to the municipal court. In 1937, he moved on to Common Pleas Court.

In 1941, he was elected mayor of Cleveland. During his tenure as mayor, the city took over the Cleveland Rail System, and in 1942 the Cleveland Transit System (the forerunner to the Regional Transit Authority) was created. In 1944, he was elected Governor of Ohio, where he remained until 1956, no matter what political wind was blowing strongest.

In 1956, Lausche was elected to the U.S. Senate for the first of his 2 terms there. He established a reputation in the Senate of crossing party lines, earning himself the nickname "Frank the Fence". Lausche, known as a penny pincher who drove old cars, was critical when it came to government spending. He railed in the Senate against federal tax breaks for large oil companies and fought spending money in the space race.

Although he was re-elected in 1962, Lausche's anti-labor views and lack of party loyalty finally caught up with him and when he ran for his third term he was targeted by organized labor. Too, his refusal to endorse Democrat Carl Stokes for mayor in 1967 over Republican Seth Taft left him vulnerable among black voters.

Lausche was defeated in the 1968 Democratic primary, ending his Senatorial career. It would be his last elected office, but he continued in private practice.

Lausche died in 1990, at the age of 94.

Frank J. Lausche served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1933 to January 5, 1937.

Manuel Levine

Manuel Levine was born in Vilna, Russia, May 25, 1881 and was orphaned by age 14. He learned of this country by reading history texts. Saving the fare, he came to Cleveland in 1897. With the aid of George Bellamy at Hiram House, who tutored and trained him in English, he completed his early education, and gained admission into the Law Department at Western Reserve. He found time to successfully pass a teacher's examination, giving instruction in Russian and German at night. He often spoke of his struggle to educate himself in the laws and customs of his adopted country. Eventually he would graduate from Western Reserve Law School.



His tenacity was rewarded, for just 6 years after his arrival in Cleveland he was appointed Assistant Police Prosecutor by Newton D. Baker, at the time City Solicitor. That day marked the beginning of his career as a public servant. After 4 years as a police prosecutor Levine was elected Police Judge. In this position, he came to be known as a champion of the poor and unfortunate. He often took exception to police tactics, comparing them to the Cossacks of his native land. While this may have fueled his critics, it did not hurt him at the polls. After crafting the original Municipal Court Act, he became a member of the first group of judges to sit on the new court. As an immigrant himself he became dedicated to the Americanization of those new to this country. To that end he began the first citizenship class in the country, because he knew what the gift of freedom meant to the recent arrivals.

Throughout his career, Levine was unfailing in his criticism toward justices of the peace. Working first in the municipal court to curtail their activities, particularly in civil actions, he continued his efforts when elevated to Common Pleas Court. He ruled that justices elected in townships and villages acted illegally when they operated their offices in Cleveland. He further ruled that they could not attach wages or property of a resident of the city and they had no authority to issue eviction writs against tenants. These rulings alone caused over 2 dozen justices to close Cleveland offices. He was an early proponent of the domestic relations and probation departments of Common Pleas Court.

It was also said at the time that he was a skilled self-promoter. He knew all the reporters who made the halls of the courthouse their beat, and he knew all the ways to weave his most trivial of comments into the fabric of whatever story was going around. He needed no press agent to keep his name before the voting public.

In 1921, Governor Harry L. Davis appointed him to the 8th District Court of Appeals. This was one of the rarest of occasions when a Republican appointed a Democrat. That appointment would be his last.

He passed away in 1939 at the age of 58.

Manuel Levine served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1912 to December 2, 1914.

Jazmine Torres-Lugo

Jazmine Ginnette Torres-Lugo, a native of Puerto Rico, attended the University of Puerto Rico, and then to Interamerican University, where she completed her legal education and began work as a trial attorney. Later, she led the legal department of the Trust for the Development, Operation and Conservation of the National Parks of Puerto Rico.

In 1990, the family came to Cleveland. She passed the Ohio bar and began work at the Spanish American Committee as the Housing Program Coordinator, a position which included legal representation regarding Landlord/Tenant law.

In 1999, she opened her own law firm, dealing with all types of legalities. In 2000, she became the first Hispanic female to run for judge of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. In 2003, Governor Bob Taft appointed her to an unexpired term on municipal court. Taking the seat on the municipal court bench, she was the first Hispanic female to serve as a judge in Ohio history. Unfortunately, her effort to win election for the remaining term was unsuccessful.



Jazmine G. Torres-Lugo served Cleveland Municipal Court from May 12, 2003 to December 31, 2003.

Robert S. Malaga

Robert Stephen Malaga was born in Cleveland. He was a 1945 graduate of Cathedral Latin High School and received his B.A. degree from Michigan State University and his law degree from Western Reserve University School of Law. After passing the bar, Malaga was able to blend public service with the private sector into a distinguished career.

In public service, he served in the administration of Governor C. William O'Neill as an Assistant Attorney General. Twice he responded when Governor James A. Rhodes appointed him to a post, first as Executive Director and Chairman of the Ohio Lottery Commission. The governor called again, this time appointing Malaga to the unexpired term as Judge of the Housing Division of municipal court. Unfortunately he was unsuccessful in his run for the remaining term. Between the Rhodes appointments, Malaga also served as judge of the Probate Division of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

In private practice, Malaga was a successful attorney and a tireless promoter. For six years, he guided the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association as its Executive Director from its headquarters in New York. When he returned to Cleveland, he brought the tennis world with him, staging the Davis and Wightman Cup international tennis tournaments here, as well as bringing World Team Tennis to town with the Cleveland Nets professional team. Malaga was the Cleveland City Tennis Champion for a string of years and coached Cleveland State's men and women's teams in the 1980s where the tennis courts on the school's campus are named in his honor. He was inducted into the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame.

Malaga was instrumental in preventing a possible move of the Cleveland Indians in the mid 1960s when he led a civic group that sold over \$1,000,000 worth of tickets in advance of the 1965 season.

He passed away in 2012 at the age of 85.

Robert S. Malaga served Cleveland Municipal Court as Housing Judge from January 5, 1981 to December 31, 1981.



Richard F. Matia

Richard Felix Matia graduated from Cathedral Latin High School in 1941, and entered John Carroll University. The war interrupted his education. He would spend 1942 through 1946 in the U.S. Navy.

With the end of World War II, Matia returned to his schooling. He graduated from John Carroll University with his undergraduate degree in 1948. His J.D. degree earned at Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1952 led him into public service.



Matia was hired as an Assistant Law Director in the Civil Division in 1953. A move to the Criminal Division positioned him as the Assistant Chief Police Prosecutor in 1955. His promotion to Chief Police Prosecutor in 1959 would last until 1964, when he resigned in scandal when it was revealed that he did not file income tax returns for 1959-1962. An IRS audit disclosed his shortfall for that period to be \$106.

He entered into private practice during this exile from which he would emerge in 1969, when he would run successfully for judge of municipal court. In 1973, Matia was investigated by both local bar associations after he admitted publicly he had a drinking habit, stopping for drinks almost daily before going to court; Matia denied that his drinking habit affected his judgment on the bench; investigators concluded there was no reason to reprimand him.

He passed away suddenly at age 52 in 1977.

Richard F. Matia served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 2, 1969 to January 4, 1977.

Anita Laster Mays

Anita Laster Mays attended John Adams High School and graduated from James Ford Rhodes High in 1982. Her education continued at Ohio State University, where she majored in Accounting and Management Information Systems. After graduating in 1986, she began working as a management trainee at State Savings Bank. Two years later, she moved back to Cleveland to attend Cleveland Marshall College of Law, while working full-time as a Financial Systems Analyst at MetroHealth Medical Center and part-time as a mediator for the City of Cleveland. In 1992, her goal of becoming a lawyer was achieved.



Following two years of private practice, she became an Assistant Cleveland Prosecutor and soon joined the Municipal Court's Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the DUI Committee to enhance her legal abilities.

In 1996, she joined the Clerk of Courts Office as Director of Operations for the Criminal Division, a position that placed her in charge of day-to-day operations over eight departments with a total of 105 employees. In 1999, Mays made an unsuccessful run for a seat on the municipal court. She ran again two years later and although once again unsuccessful, she doubled her vote count. She won on her third try in 2003 by over 2,000 votes and was unopposed for re-election. Mays served as judge of the Greater Cleveland Drug Court for 6 years. She was elected to the 8th District Court of Appeals in 2014.

Anita Laster Mays served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 1, 2004 to January 31, 2015.

William J. McDermott

William Jennings McDermott was born in Akron in 1898, attended lower school there and completed high school in Cleveland at Glenville High School. He went to Heidelberg College in 1916, fully intending to pursue a law degree.

World War I interrupted his plans. He enlisted in the Army in 1917, serving nearly 2 years. He served most of his time as a motorcycle dispatch rider. Returning to Heidelberg in 1919, he met with success in academics and sports. He completed his undergraduate work and came to Cleveland to enroll in the Western Reserve University Law School. He graduated and passed the bar in 1924.



To pay for his law school, he coached football at Loyola High School, basketball at St. Ignatius and basketball and track at University School. He also earned his way as a playground instructor and an automobile sales credit manager. He somehow found the time to play professional football and basketball for two seasons. McDermott would actually have a partial career working as a referee at football and basketball games. At one time he was a regular Ohio Conference referee.

After six years of private practice, McDermott was named an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Cleveland, handling banking prosecutions and civil work for the Post Office and the Immigration Service. He accepted an assignment as a Special Assistant Ohio Attorney General for Cleveland, and was made liquidator for savings and loan companies in the Cleveland area.

In 1939, he was appointed by Governor John W. Bricker to the municipal bench to complete an unexpired term. That term was followed by additional terms in 1939 and 1945. In 1946, McDermott was elected to Juvenile Court and re-elected in 1950.

He ran for mayor of Cleveland twice. In 1951, he took a leave of absence from Juvenile Court to run unsuccessfully against Thomas A. Burke, and in 1953, he again resigned from the bench to run, again unsuccessfully, against Anthony J. Celebrezze. He was re-elected for the juvenile bench in 1962.

He passed away at the age of 66 in 1964.

William J. McDermott served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from August 2, 1939 to November 15, 1939 and again from January 3, 1940 to December 31, 1946.

William H. McGannon

William Henry McGannon was the first Chief Justice of the Municipal Court of Cleveland who was twice acquitted of murder but convicted of perjury.

He was born in Willoughby, attended Western Reserve Law School, passed the bar in 1898, and was appointed Cuyahoga County Examiner. He became an Assistant County Prosecutor in 1906, and was elected as Police Court Judge in 1907, before being elected the first Chief Justice of the new municipal court in 1911. He was re-elected to a 6-year term in 1915.

McGannon was heavily favored for the 1921 Democratic mayoral nomination until the night of May 8, 1920. He was involved in the murder of Harold Kagy on a downtown street. After two trials which featured conflicting testimony and forgetful witnesses, McGannon was acquitted twice.

The prosecutors were outraged and embarrassed. In a grand jury investigation, 15 people were indicted for perjury, including McGannon. He was convicted and sentenced to 1 to 10 years but served only 19 months. His early release was due to his extreme diabetes.

McGannon moved to Chicago, where he clerked for a law firm.

He passed away in 1928 at the age of 58.

William H. McGannon served the Municipal Court of Cleveland as Chief Justice from January 1, 1912 to March 1, 1921.



(See the Table of Contents for the location of the full version of the McGannon story.)

Walter McMahon

Walter McMahon earned the respect of all who practiced in his court, and was acknowledged for his independence and fearlessness.

He was born on Smith Street, a street long since replaced by the Lorain Carnegie Bridge. As a boy he was well known for his baseball prowess, first as a catcher and later as a shortstop. He graduated from West High School and from Western Reserve University and Law School in 1897.



Fresh from law school he set himself in private practice, and later joined a firm. In 1917, in his first attempt at public office, he ran successfully for municipal court. On the bench he established a reputation as a stickler for promptness, insisting on opening and closing his sessions on time, and was admired for his ability to be able to dispense a great deal of work without slighting any one part.

This drew the attention of Governor Harry L. Davis, who appointed him to fill an unexpired term on the Common Pleas Court bench. McMahon would serve there for over 2 decades, and handle many difficult cases. Many times his rulings brought adverse reactions from organized labor or citizen groups who would prefer a more populist outcome. However unpopular, those that voted rewarded him for his firm and forthright handling of all matters before him. His death ended his third full term in Common Pleas Court.

He passed away in 1943 at the age of 68.

Walter McMahon served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1918 to November 15, 1922.

Ann McManamon

Ann Aherne McManamon, a native of San Francisco, met her husband when she was a student at the University of California at Berkeley and he was stationed in California with the Navy.

They came to Cleveland, choosing to study law together at Cleveland Marshall Law School. They took their bar exam together and were sworn in together in 1950. In her class of 125, Ann was the only woman. They even practiced together before their paths separated.



Ann continued to be active in private practice, beginning her public life when she ran successfully for municipal court in 1973 and for Common Pleas Court in 1977. Former Governor Richard F. Celeste appointed her to the Appeals Court in 1983, and she later ran successfully for the seat.

Ann and Joseph McManamon ended their career as they began, together. On the same day her last six-year term on the Ohio Court of Appeals, 8th District ended Jan. 6, 1993, the term of her husband Joseph F. McManamon expired as judge of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. She had declared she would not seek another term because her husband, because of age, could not run again.

Ann McManamon, 66 at the time, would have been able to run for another term, but she preferred to spend more time with her husband. She said. *"I thought maybe it was time we both should smell the roses, or the daisies, or whatever."*

Ann McManamon served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 4, 1974 to January 5, 1977.

Joseph F. McManamon Jr.

Joseph Francis McManamon Jr. was born on W. 115th Street in Cleveland in 1919, the son of Irish immigrants. The oldest of 5 children, he followed a parochial school elementary education with enrollment in the St. Joseph's Franciscan Seminary in Hinsdale, Illinois. Despite his 6 years in the seminary, he chose a different path, obtaining a degree from John Carroll University in 1941. While a Lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1941 to 1945, he was stationed in California. Here he met his wife Ann, who was studying at the University of California at Berkeley. After the service and the university, they came to Cleveland together.



They both earned their J.D. degrees from Cleveland Marshall Law School and were admitted to the bar in 1950. As law partners, their private practice spanned 2 decades.

McManamon had a varied career in public service. He had joined Cleveland Police Department in 1940, eventually rising to Detective in Homicide. He served as a Special Agent in Charge of the Office of Price Stabilization, 1951-1953, Chief of Enforcement for the Department of Liquor Control, 1953-1955, Cleveland Director of Public Safety, and a judge of municipal and Common Pleas Court. His resume includes private practice, as a legal counsel for the Carling Brewing Company from 1955-1959, as well as his own partnership with his wife.

McManamon's most significant contribution to municipal court is the Housing Division. He wrote the legislation which created the division and in 1980, served as the first Housing Judge. In November of 1980, McManamon was elected to Common Pleas Court.

He passed away at the age of 95 in 2014.

Joseph F. McManamon served as an Associate Judge of the General Division of the Cleveland Municipal Court from January 4, 1978 to April 1, 1980 and as Housing Judge from April 2, 1980 to January 5, 1981.

David C. Meck Sr.

David Channing Meck Sr. was a teacher at East Tech High School. He delayed his enrollment in law school until his wife, Gertrude, completed her medical education. When she became Doctor Meck, David began his law studies. He was admitted to the bar 4 years after Gertrude started her medical practice. The Mecks had 6 children, two followed the father into law, and two took up medicine.

Meck received his law degree from Cleveland Law School in 1913 at age 50. Some time later, he joined the faculty, but apparently had some sort of disagreement with the Dean and principle founder Willis Vickery, a former Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge. This prompted Meck to establish the John Marshall Law School, with partners Alfred A. Benesch, noted attorney, and Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan. When the school opened, Meck was the largest stockholder, a member of the faculty, and was the school's dean until his death.

Meck was appointed to municipal court by Governor A. Victor Donahey to fill an unexpired term in 1924. He was sworn in by his son Dean, an attorney for General Electric. He was unsuccessful in his quest for another term in 1931. After his term on the bench, he went back to the law school as the full time Dean and faculty member.

He died suddenly in 1939 at the age of 76.

David C. Meck Sr. served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from December 9, 1924 to December 31, 1931.



David C. Meck Jr.

David Channing Meck Jr. was born in Cleveland in 1905, the son of two highly accomplished parents, David C. Meck Sr. and Dr. Gertrude Meck. He was educated in the Cleveland public schools, the Hackley School in Tarrytown, New York, Harvard College and the Western Reserve University School of Law, from which he graduated in 1930 as an honor student. His scholastic career paralleled that of his parents, reflecting achievement and recognized by the award of the degree of Doctor of Laws by Wilberforce University in 1952.



Upon graduating from law school, he engaged in private practice. Between 1935 and 1943 he held a series of public sector posts; Assistant Police Prosecutor, Assistant City Law Director, Attorney for the Securities and Exchange Commission and Regional Director of Social Protection of the Federal Security Agency (headed by Eliot Ness). At the time of his election to the municipal bench he was Dean of the John Marshall Law School.

His father, David C. Meck Sr., was one of the founders of the John Marshall School of Law and in 1930 Meck Jr. began a career in legal education which was to mirror that of his father. Serving on the faculty of the John Marshall School of Law from 1930, he became Dean in 1939 at his father's passing, guiding the growth of the school until it merged with the Cleveland Law School in 1946 to become the Cleveland Marshall Law School. Since 1946, in addition to his judicial responsibilities, he served as Director of Education and as a member of the Executive Committee. Both father and son devoted their time and ability to make Cleveland Marshall Law School into one of the leading law schools in the country.

In November of 1943, he was elected to a 6 year term as a judge on the Municipal Court of Cleveland. During his first year of that term, 1944, he took a 4 month leave to serve as a special advisor to an American Economic Mission to the Middle East. In 1949, he was re-elected to a second term. He made attempts for higher courts, running unsuccessfully for Common Pleas Court in 1948 and again in 1952, as well as for the Court of Appeals in 1951.

David C. Meck Jr. stood for re-election in 1955, but passed away suddenly in October due to the curse of the Meck family, Coronary Thrombosis. This was the cause of death of Meck Jr., his father, and 3 brothers. His death occurred after the deadline for filing for the election, and no opposing candidate had filed against him. Media speculation focused on as many as a dozen strong cases for write-in consideration. In the end, his replacement, chosen by write-in vote, was the Assistant Prosecutor on the 1954 Dr. Sam Shepard trial, Thomas J. Parrino.

He passed away in 1955 at the age of 49.

David C. Meck Jr. served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 2, 1944 to October 22, 1955.

Frank J. Merrick

Francis Joseph Merrick was a soldier, lawyer, prosecutor and judge. And a baseball fan. During his professional career, controversy followed him wherever he worked because he was blunt, outspoken and he detested phonies.

He was born the youngest of 12 in 1894. As a kid he had 2 paper routes that paid him \$1.25 a week. When a customer offered him a job at \$2 a week, he gave up one of the papers. That customer was U. S. District Judge Francis W. Wing who persuaded him to give up his dreams of being a ball player or a streetcar motorman and try the law.

While attending St. Ignatius, where he graduated in 1912, he was an apprentice butcher at the Central Market. He studied the law while working in the law office of Colonel H.J. Turney and attended Cleveland Law School at night. He was too young to take the bar exam after graduating from law school in 1915. Forced to wait a year to take the bar exam, he passed in 1916, and shortly thereafter he enlisted in the Army. He was wounded by shrapnel while on night patrol in 1918, and was decorated for bravery. He mustered out a Sergeant from Company K of the 9th Infantry in 1919.

After the army he became an Assistant County Prosecutor, but quit to become the counsel of the Cleveland Auto Club. When 4 hoodlums killed 2 club executives in a payroll robbery, Merrick was given \$25,000 to investigate the case. Directing the pursuit all over the U. S. and Italy, the ringleader, Dominic Bengigno, was caught and executed in Mexico in 1927.

Merrick became an Assistant County Prosecutor again in 1929 under Ray T. Miller. When Miller became Mayor in 1932, he appointed Merrick to Safety Director. As city Safety Director in 1932, at a time when prohibition was the law and gambling and prostitution were rife in the city, he transferred police from district to district and insisted to the chief that they conduct raids without notifying district commanders. When asked by a councilman if he was saying some police commanders were dishonest he replied, "*Saying is one thing, proving another.*" He once told a councilman, "*stop trying to tell me how to run the police department and try to be a councilman.*" Although Miller would force his resignation in 1933 amid rumors of alcohol abuse, his deepest complaint was that his handlers were "*shackled by a venal police and political clique.*" He left after what newspapers of the day called "13 tempestuous months."

Despite the rumors, he started his judicial career on the municipal bench in 1933. The voters found him worthy again when he moved to Common Pleas Court in late 1936. He had a keen legal mind that was on display for those sharp enough to grasp it. "He knew the law," said Thomas J. Parrino, a fellow judge at the time, "He memorized the key cases and would almost rule before you could voice an objection." Parrino recalled a manslaughter case when he was an assistant county prosecutor. A woman had shot her lover to death. The defense had pleaded self-defense, Parrino had waived argument. "Guilty", Merrick ruled, "too many bullet holes."

He assumed a seat on the bench of the Probate Division of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas on January 1, 1955. He ended his judicial career there as Presiding Judge in 1973. Such was his knowledge of the law that, along with Ellis V. Rippner, he co-authored an authoritative text on Ohio probate law.



Merrick continued

Merrick was a lifelong Cleveland baseball fan dating back to when he dreamed of playing for the team then known as the Naps. He found time to manage sandlot teams in Class C and D and discovered a first baseman named Joe Kuhel who would play in the majors for the Washington Senators and others for more than a decade.

He passed away suddenly on July 9, 1977 at the age of 82, still working at legal matters.

Frank J. Merrick served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from November 22, 1933 to December 15, 1936.

Maurice J. Meyer

Maurice J. Meyer was nicknamed “Chief” from his professional baseball days. He played baseball and football at Ohio Wesleyan University, graduating in 1917.

In World War I he served in France in the Army Infantry, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant. When the hostilities ceased, he returned to school in Cleveland, at the Western Reserve University School of Law. He graduated, passed the bar and opened a practice in 1922.

He remained in the military, serving in the Ohio National Guard, posted as the Executive Officer of the 54th Cavalry Brigade. He rose to the rank of Major, and when called upon, served as a military judge.

As a civilian, he was hired by Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Edward C. Stanton as an Assistant Prosecutor in 1926. In 1927, to keep active in athletics, he became the football coach at University School.

In late 1930, he gave up the prosecutor’s office when he was appointed Attorney Examiner to head the Trust Division of the State Banking Department, which necessitated a move to Columbus. On April 21, 1930, a riot and fire took place on Easter Monday, a fire which took the lives of 322 prisoners at the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus. After the fire, when the Ohio National Guard took control of the prison, Meyer was appointed Military Warden. In late 1930, he was appointed to the municipal court bench by Governor Myers Y. Cooper to fill a vacancy. When his bid for election was denied, he returned to private practice. In 1932, he made an unsuccessful run for Common Pleas Court. In 1933 he was appointed Attorney for Liquidating Agents for several Toledo banks.

For most of his career, Meyer would have part-time employment as a football referee. He was widely known on college and professional fields all over the Midwest. Both Meyer and Oscar C. Bell were well known on football fields.

When Meyer retired, he moved to Florida where he passed away in 1948 at the age of 53.

Maurice J. Meyer served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1931 to December 31, 1931.



Ray C. Miller

Ray Charles Miller was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and came to Cleveland in 1920, a mere five days after his high school graduation. Shortly after his graduation from John Carroll University in 1925, he was hired to be the school registrar. Within two years he would join the faculty.

His career in politics really began in 1929 while an English and Speech teacher at the university when he ran successfully for a seat on the Board of Education. He would later assume the board presidency.

When elected to City Council in 1937 as a Republican from Ward 9, he would leave the university for a career in politics. In 1945, he was the Republican candidate for Mayor against a very popular incumbent, Thomas A. Burke. This defeat in an election he had little chance of winning led to his appointment to the Board of Elections. The following year he was named clerk of the board, becoming the top full time election official, a position he would hold for over 2 decades.

He received his law degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1944, and began his legal career in private practice.

In 1967 he was appointed by Governor James A. Rhodes to fill an unexpired term on the municipal court. He was elected to the remaining term and would stay until his retirement.

Away from the bench, he was an accomplished pianist as well as a prize winning gardener of gladioli, and was known to exhibit his flowers in shows all around the state.

He passed away in 1978 at the age of 76.

Ray C. Miller served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 28, 1967 to December 31, 1975.



Lauren C. Moore

Lauren Cecile Moore graduated from Shaker Heights High School and received her bachelor's degree in English from Spellman College. She returned to Cleveland to attend Case Western Reserve University to earn her law degree.

Having passed the Ohio bar in 1987, Moore began a career that would see her serve as both a civil attorney and public defender at the Legal Aid Society.

She has had experience on the other side of casework as Chief Prosecutor for the City of Cleveland and as an Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor. Her goal of becoming a judge was achieved when she was elected to Cleveland Municipal Court in November of 2003. She has since been re-elected twice. Along with her regular assignments, Moore presides over the Greater Cleveland Drug Court docket.



Lauren C. Moore has served Cleveland Municipal Court since January 2, 2004.

David J. Moylan

David J. Moylan was a story of courage and determination. He was born in 1876. At the age of 16 he quit school to support his widowed mother and sister. He found work on the Pennsylvania Railroad as a brakeman. In 1894, he was caught between 2 cars, crushing his right arm so seriously that amputation at the shoulder was immediate. While recuperating, Moylan attended Ohio Northern University from 1898 to 1901. He again turned to work on the Pennsylvania Railroad, this time as a switchman. In 1902 he was once again the victim of this dangerous way to make a living. He was run down by a switch engine, losing his left arm at the shoulder. No longer able to return to the railroad (and what right thinking person would) he had to find another means of earning a living.



Briefly taking a job selling real estate, Moylan entered the Cleveland Law School in 1906. Following his graduation in 1908, he passed the bar in January of 1909. It is said he caused quite a shock to the examiners when he came to Columbus for the bar exam. Totally unprepared for an applicant with no arms, they were even more stunned when he declined an oral exam. Having learned to write while holding his pen with his teeth, Moylan placed in the top 10 of candidates who passed the bar. His reason for declining an oral exam:

“I am a candidate for Justice of the Peace. I don’t want to be elected because I am crippled. I want the people of Cleveland to understand that an armless man can write, to know that I can make every entry required by the office.”

He entered private practice and was soon sufficiently successful to hire a stenographer. In 1911 he turned to politics. Although he was not successful in his run for justice of the peace, he did serve two terms on City Council and built his law practice. In 1915, he was elected to the municipal court bench, a position he would hold until his death.

He passed away at the age of 65 in 1942.

David J. Moylan served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1916 to May 16, 1942.

James E. Mulcahy Jr.

James Edward Mulcahy Jr. was born in Peabody, Massachusetts. After graduating from high school in 1939, he went to work at General Electric in West Lynn, becoming a card carrying member of the Electrical Workers Union.

In May 1942, he volunteered for the armed services. During the war, he served as a tail gunner and aerial photographer with the 319th Bomber Group, flying 70 combat missions. He was awarded 14 Air Medals, the Croix de Guerre avec Palme, 4 Presidential Citations and 5 Battle Stars for his meritorious service.

Released from military service on disability in 1945, he attended Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C., and graduated from the Catholic University Law School and was admitted to the Washington D.C. Bar in 1950.

His post war legal career began in Warren, Ohio in 1950, passing the Ohio Bar in 1951 after establishing his legal residence for the required one year. He came to Cleveland in 1954, and established himself in practice here. Mulcahy was victorious in his bid for election to a full term on the municipal court but was defeated in his bid for re-election. He then returned to private practice.

He passed away at the age of 73 in 1995.

James E. Mulcahy Jr. served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 4, 1976 to December 31, 1981.



Lynn A. McLaughlin-Murray

Lynn Ann McLaughlin-Murray was a 1986 graduate of Baldwin Wallace College and a 1989 graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Her legal career included a term as an Assistant Director of Law for the City of Cleveland Tax Division and as staff counsel for the Central Collection Agency. She also served as an Assistant City Prosecutor.

She joined the court as a magistrate in 1999, and was serving in that capacity when Governor Ted Strickland appointed her in January 2011 to the municipal court bench. Unfortunately, she was unsuccessful in her bid for retention. Following her loss, the judges of the court returned her to the position of magistrate.

Lynn A. McLaughlin-Murray served as a judge of Cleveland Municipal Court from January 7, 2011 to January 2, 2012.



Frank G. O'Bell

Frank George O'Bell attended Cathedral Latin High School, John Carroll University and Ohio Northern University Law School, where he received a law degree in 1936. He soon involved himself in private practice.

He was a Legal Officer in the Army Air Force and a Trial Judge Advocate. Following his military service, he returned to his civilian practice.

O'Bell, a Democrat, was appointed to the Cleveland court in January 1975 to complete an unexpired term. Voters continually re-elected him to office, but he finally had to relinquish his post in 1986 after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70. He continued as a visiting judge in Painesville Municipal Court. He was known for performing numerous wedding ceremonies where he didn't charge a fee, but did accept donations to his favorite charities. For most of his adult life, O'Bell, a fitness disciple, walked eight miles a day.



He passed away at the age of 91 in 2003.

Frank G. O'Bell served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 9, 1975 to December 31, 1987.

Michael P. O'Brien

Michael Peter O'Brien was a Cleveland native who graduated from State High School. During the flu epidemic of 1918, he was a health officer. In 1920, he graduated from Baldwin Wallace College and pursued a law degree from Cleveland Law School. On July 11, 1922, he was admitted to the bar.

At this same time, he was drawn by his love of athletics to be a baseball umpire. He worked amateur and semi-professional games all over the area. He also competed himself as an amateur boxer, vying for the Ohio Welterweight Championship.

O'Brien joined the bailiff's office at the court in 1922, beginning the public service phase of his career. When an opportunity to use his law degree came his way, he became the Assistant Law Director in 1932. In 1933, he opened his own general law practice, and in 1935 was elected to a short term as a municipal judge. Short terms were remainders of unexpired terms that were often filled by elections.

In 1938, he began his run of four terms in the Ohio Legislature. He would also serve as an Assistant Ohio Attorney General from 1959 to 1963. He maintained his private law practice, eventually taking on a partner as many do, his son, and he would retire in 1969.

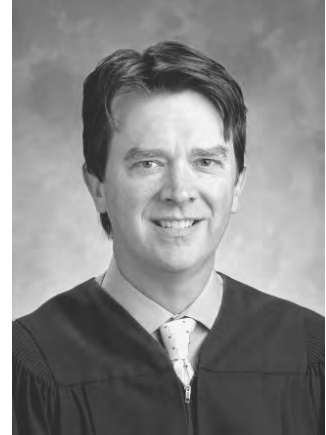
He passed away in 1987 at the age of 96.

Michael P. O'Brien served the Municipal Court of Cleveland as a Judge from November 16, 1935 to December 31, 1935.



Ronald J.H. O'Leary

Ronald Joseph H. O'Leary was a graduate of Lehman High School in Sidney, Ohio, and Miami University where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs as well as a Master's Degree in Political Science. He attended law school at Case Western Reserve University, passing the bar in 1997 and beginning his legal career in the City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office. While there, he handled every type of case that came through the office. Eventually he became section chief of the Code Enforcement attorneys.



He was appointed by Governor Bob Taft to the court on August 19, 2005 to fill an unexpired term. However, he was unsuccessful in running for the unexpired term. Following his election disappointment, he returned to work for the city in the Division of Building and Housing, where he assumed the position of Deputy Chief. In 2014, Mayor Frank Jackson appointed O'Leary as Director of the Building and Housing Department.

In March 2017, Governor John Kasich appointed O'Leary to the Cleveland Housing Court bench to fill the seat of Judge Raymond Pianka, who passed away suddenly.

Ronald J.H. O'Leary served Cleveland Municipal Court as an Associate Judge from August 19, 2005 to December 11, 2005, and has served the Housing Court since March, 2017.

Stanley L. Orr

Stanley L. Orr was born 1890 in Chillicothe Ohio, and was schooled in Ross County. He came north in 1908 to enter Western Reserve University, where he received his A.B. in 1912, and his law degree in 1914.

He briefly entered the practice of law, joining an established firm. War interrupted, and he served in the Army during the Mexican border campaign and in World War I. When he was overseas in France, he served as a First Lieutenant in the 135th Field Artillery, 37th Division.

After the war, he returned to the firm, remaining there until he was elected to municipal court for 1924. His campaign for re-election two years later would fail him, so in 1926 he returned to private practice. His specialty was municipal law, which would lead him to a 12 year period which he spent as Solicitor of the City of Euclid, and other municipalities. He also devoted more than 2 decades of service to the Red Cross, where he filled a variety of positions. He was also dedicated to the Boy Scouts of America.

He joined the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas in 1941 when appointed by Governor John W. Bricker. He was elected to a full term in 1942.

Orr was dedicated to the future of the law profession and, to that end, he served as a Professor of Municipal Law at the Cleveland Law School and as a member of the school's directorate.

He passed away at the age of 57 in 1948.

Stanley L. Orr served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1924 to December 31, 1925.



Bobette Smiley Ousley

Bobette Smiley Ousley was a native Clevelander who attended public schools. She received her B.A. degree from Howard University and her J.D. degree from Howard University School of Law.

Ousley was an assistant Cleveland Police Prosecutor from 1976 to 1984 when she began her career at municipal court as a Small Claims Magistrate. In 1987, she was named Traffic Court Magistrate.

In 1994, Ousley was appointed by Governor George Voinovich to an unexpired term on the court. Unfortunately, she was unable to capture sufficient public support in the election to retain that position. After her term as judge came to a close, she was reinstated to her position with the court Magistrate's Department. She has since retired.

Bobette Smiley Ousley served as judge of Cleveland Municipal Court from October 22, 1994 to December 4, 1995.



Phillip E. Parisi

Phillip Edward Parisi received his B.S. degree from The Ohio State University and his J. D. degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School.

Parisi was appointed by Governor Richard F. Celeste to fill an unexpired term in 1983. However, he was unsuccessful in his run for the remainder of the term. Prior to this appointment he had served in the Court of Claims of Ohio, Attorney General's Office, the Bureau of Employment Services, the Bureau of Liquor Control, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Police Prosecutor's Office and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court.



Phillip E. Parisi served Cleveland Municipal Court from April 11, 1983 to December 8, 1983.

Augustus G. Parker Sr.

Augustus Garland Parker Sr. was a native of Greenwood, Mississippi. He attended Ohio State University, studying journalism, and received his B. S. in 1923. He went on to pursue a law degree, which he earned in 1929. Here in Cleveland, he engaged in private practice.

Parker became active in Cleveland politics, serving on City Council seven terms in total, from 1940 to 1949 serving Ward 11 and again from 1958 to 1961, representing Ward 25.

Governor James A. Rhodes twice chose him for important positions. He served first on the Ohio Industrial Commission in 1963 and 1964, and again when he was appointed to the position of Chief Justice of the court. He was the first African-American to hold that post.

He passed away suddenly in 1965 at the age of 65.

Augustus G. Parker Sr. served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 4, 1965 to October 16, 1965.



Thomas J. Parrino

Thomas James Parrino was born in 1917, the son of Italian immigrants near Woodland Avenue and East 30th Street in Cleveland's Central neighborhood. He was a 1936 John Adams High School graduate who attended Ohio Northern University at Ada, where he earned a law degree in 1942.

During World War II, he was attached to an Army Air Force intelligence unit in Europe, participating in campaigns at Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe.

Returning from military service, he entered private law practice in 1945 before joining the County Prosecutor's office as an assistant in 1949. As a prosecutor, Parrino earned a reputation as a vigorous and skillful trial lawyer. He was involved in the most notorious criminal case in Cleveland history, assisting with the prosecution of Dr. Sam Sheppard, for the murder of his wife. Although Sheppard's 1955 conviction was reversed 11 years later and he was acquitted at his second trial, Parrino never commented on Sheppard's guilt or innocence.

In 1955, a vacancy occurred in the Cleveland Municipal Court shortly before the general election. Parrino was successfully elected as a write-in candidate, and served the municipal court until 1959, when he received an appointment to fill a vacancy in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. Parrino won each reelection until 1974 when he was elected to the Eighth District Court of Appeals. Following his retirement in 1986, he continued to serve as a visiting judge on the Court of Appeals and the Ohio Supreme Court for many years.

He passed away in 2006 at the age of 89.

Thomas J. Parrino served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 2, 1956 to November 4, 1959.



Charles L. Patton, Jr.

Charles Lindell Patton, Jr., a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, enrolled at Ohio University in Athens and pursued degrees in Journalism and History (Afro-American), both of which he obtained in 1972. It was then on to law school at Howard University in Washington D.C., at which time he worked as an administrative assistant to U.S. Senator John Glenn. After graduation, Patton became Assistant General Counsel of the Public Service Commission of New York State, working on cases involving Public Utility issues.



In 1982, Patton came back to Cleveland to work as an Assistant City Prosecutor. From 1985 to 1989, he worked as Staff Attorney for the UAW/Ford-GM Legal Office in Lorain, Ohio, representing UAW members in civil matters. In 1989, he became Legal Director and Senior Staff Counsel of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority. That same year, he decided to run for a seat on the Cleveland City Council and was elected to represent the people of Ward One.

Although he returned to private practice following his years on City Council, he would not remain long. He was elected to the municipal court bench in November of 2005, fulfilling a lifelong goal to become a judge.

In addition to his regular assignments, Patton serves as the judge in charge of the Veterans Treatment Docket.

Charles L. Patton, Jr. has served Cleveland Municipal Court since December 12, 2005.

Berkeley Pearce



Berkeley Pearce was born October 21, 1865, a native of Pomfret, Connecticut. He gained his law degree from Albany Law School of New York in 1888, the oldest unaffiliated law school in the country. Seeking his fortune in the golden state, he headed westward, settling in Sacramento where he passed the California bar. Accepting an offer from a law firm in San Francisco, he reached the west coast in the winter of 1890.

In 1898, Pearce came to Ohio, Cleveland specifically, and settled on Prospect Avenue. He was admitted to the bar by the Ohio Supreme Court, with a certificate attesting to his more than 5 years successful practice in California. He established himself in private practice at No. 1024, Society for Savings building. (Now part of the Keybank complex on Public Square.) His was a busy practice, specializing in divorces and civil cases. After hours, he was a noted vocalist, lending his voice to singing and instrumental societies of the day.

Pearce soon became active in Democratic Party politics. He was a featured speaker at numerous ward meetings and rallies, often as an orator stumping for the Tom L. Johnson political cause and candidates. In this era, election season would feature each party holding a city-wide convention. Pearce was often a delegate and committee man from the 12th ward.

In 1903, Pearce offered himself as a candidate for State Representative on the democratic ticket. Although he was unsuccessful, his next foray would be his one victory. Running for a seat as a City Councilman at Large, he won, serving from 1906-1910. Unfortunately for Pearce he was defeated when he tried for re-election. His win must have been encouraging, as he continued to stand for election. In 1915, he filed for a seat on municipal court, a 4 year term. He was unsuccessful. In 1916, he ran for a seat on the Court of Appeals. He was unsuccessful.

Offering him a brief respite from the lost elections, Governor James M. Cox appointed Pearce to the municipal bench in 1919. However, Pearce was unsuccessful in his run for the remaining term. Undeterred, in 1921 and 1923, Pearce ran for seats on municipal court. He was unsuccessful at each. In 1925 and 1927, he ran again for municipal court. He was unsuccessful each time. In 1929, Pearce tried for city council and in 1931, Pearce tried one last time for municipal court. In each of his last two elections, he was unsuccessful. Through all the years and all the lost elections, Pearce still had his private practice and remained active in politics and music.

He passed away in Providence, Rhode Island at the age of 69 on December 29, 1934.

Berkeley Pearce served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1919 to December 31, 1919.

Ralph J. Perk Jr.

Ralph Joseph Perk Jr. received his B.S. degree from Ohio State University and his J.D. degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law. After gaining his degrees, he embarked upon a career dedicated to public service, following a family tradition begun by his father, who had served the community at many levels, including City Council, County Auditor and Cleveland Mayor.

Perk Jr. served as a Reservist in the United States Army from 1968 to 1976, attaining the rank of Captain in the Transportation Corps.

Beginning in 1967, he was successfully elected to City Council five times, serving as Minority Leader and in numerous committee positions. He was a member of the Cuyahoga County Board of Revision from 1979 to 1983. Twice elected to the Cleveland Board of Education, he served 2 terms as President of the board and Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee.

While in private law practice, he was appointed in 1986 as Special Counsel of Ohio by Attorney General Anthony J. Celebrezze Jr. Governor George Voinovich appointed him to municipal court in 1991, a position from which he would eventually retire.

Ralph J. Perk Jr. served Cleveland Municipal Court from February 28, 1991 to December 31, 2003.



Louis Petrash

Louis Petrash was born in Cleveland in 1891 and attended St. Ignatius High School. He graduated with an A.B. and an M. A. from St. Ignatius College (later John Carroll University) and received his law degree in 1914 from the Western Reserve University School of Law. Petrash was admitted to the bar in 1915 and toiled in private practice.

He served as Deputy Clerk for the Board of Elections in 1917 and as city License Commissioner in 1932-1933. He was a member of Cleveland City Council from 1921-1931, the first native-born Clevelander of Hungarian descent to be elected to public office. While the only bachelor on council, a news story about him inspired over 100 proposals from local women, a point of which his wife Zella would often remind him.

Appointed to the municipal bench in 1934 by Governor George White, Petrash was elected in 1935 and continued to serve until his sudden death in 1967 at the age of 76. On his passing Judge August Pryatel said, "*Few judges were favored with his faculty of resolving differences to the satisfaction of all parties. In his death, justice lost an able servant.*"

Louis Petrash served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 1, 1935 to October 13, 1967.



Frank C. Phillips

Frank C. Phillips was born in Zanesville, Ohio in 1871. He graduated from Muskingum College and the University of Cincinnati Law School. His first partner in law was his father George L., who was a judge in Common Pleas Court for 25 years and the author of Phillips on Code of Pleading.

Phillips was elected to the city bench in 1915. Three years later he would run for a seat on Common Pleas Court. He remained there from 1918 until 1930, when he was defeated due to what he referred to as, "*the opposition of the Cleveland Bar Association.*"

In 1931, he again found his way to the municipal court bench. The media, such as it was in the 1930s, was often critical of him for being too lenient on the "professional ladies." Phillips told reporters he favored segregated, licensed vice districts. "*There can be little control under the methods used,*" he said, "*and institutions are too crowded without sending our vice prisoners.*"

In total, he logged 17 years combined on the courts, and he would have been a candidate for re-election, when he suddenly passed away.

He passed away in 1933 at the age of 62.

Frank C. Phillips served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1916 to December 31, 1918 and from January 1, 1931 to November 25, 1933.



Raymond L. Pianka

Raymond Lee Pianka, a lifelong Clevelander, began his civic career while an undergraduate student at Cleveland State University. In the early 1970's he was one of the founders of the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization located in the neighborhood where he had lived his entire life. He served as the organization's first executive director while attending Cleveland Marshall College of Law.

In 1985 he was elected to Cleveland City Council, representing Ward 17. He remained on the council for ten years. While on City Council he served as Chairman of the Community and Economic Development Committee. In 1995, he was successful in his run for the Housing Court seat. He was twice re-elected to the position.



Judge Pianka passed away suddenly at the age of 65 in January of 2017.

Raymond L. Pianka served the Housing Division of Cleveland Municipal Court from January 1, 1996 to January 22, 2017.

George Pillersdorf

George Pillersdorf was a Cleveland native who graduated from West High School, Adelbert College and Western Reserve University Law School.

Established in private practice, he served as a Cleveland Councilman from 1933 to 1936, as well as a Special Counsel to the Ohio Attorney General. In 1940, he made an unsuccessful run for the Ohio Senate.

Politically active, he spent time as a member of the Republican Cuyahoga County Executive Committee.

He was appointed by Governor James A. Rhodes to fill an unexpired term. He was not successful in the election to retain the seat.

He passed away at the age of 69 in 1973.

George Pillersdorf served Cleveland Municipal Court from April 29, 1970 to December 31, 1971.



August Pryatel

August Pryatel served on Cleveland Municipal Court, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and the Ohio Court of Appeals 8th District, accumulating over 32 years as a judge.

He was born August Prijatel, the son of a Slovenian hat maker, but people often misread his signature as Pryatel, which led him to finally change the name. He was the youngest of seven children raised by Slovenian immigrants on East 64th Street near St. Clair Avenue. He developed polio at 4, attended public schools for children with handicaps and used crutches at Hiram College. He would use a cane and a leg brace for the rest of his life.

He worked as an accountant by day and went to Cleveland Law School at night. He joined a law firm where he became close friends with an associate, Ralph Locher, future mayor and Ohio Supreme Court Justice. In 1944, he was appointed as an assistant police prosecutor.

Governor Frank J. Lausche, from Pryatel's old neighborhood, made him Deputy Superintendent of Insurance in 1949 and promoted him to Superintendent in 1955. Two years later, Lausche appointed him to the municipal court. In 1959, Governor Michael V. DiSalle appointed Pryatel to the Chief Justice position.

In 1964 and 1970, Pryatel won terms on Common Pleas Court. In 1972, he quit a primary race for appellate court against John V. Corrigan. In 1974, he lost an appellate primary to Common Pleas' Chief Justice, Thomas J. Parrino. It was Pryatel's first and last loss.

He won a new appellate seat in 1976 and held it until retiring in 1989 as Presiding Judge. He then served several years as a visiting judge.

He passed away at the age of 96 in 2010.

August Pryatel served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 2, 1957 to December 31, 1959 as an Associate Judge, and from January 1, 1960 to January 3, 1965 as Chief Justice.



Emanuel M. Rose

Emanuel Myron Rose was born in Cleveland in 1903. He attended Ohio State University from 1921 to 1924, and Law School from 1924 to 1926. After passing the bar, he established himself in private practice.

Rose was a dedicated public servant, serving 2 terms as a state representative in 1942-1943 and 1947-1948. He served as an Ohio Assistant Attorney General from 1957-1961. He joined the city Prosecutors Office as an Assistant Prosecutor in 1933, remaining there until 1935. He was appointed to municipal court by Governor John W. Bricker to fill an unexpired term in 1939.

Rose attended Western Reserve University Graduate School from 1942-1944 in addition to serving in Common Pleas Court in 1942-1943. He was Special Counsel to the Attorney General from 1957-1961, and Councilman in University Heights from 1965-1968. Through all his stops, he managed to maintain his private practice.

He passed away at the age of 78 in 1981.

Emanuel M. Rose served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from November 16, 1939 to December 31, 1939.



Anthony A. Rutkowski

Anthony Alexander Rutkowski was born in Cleveland of Polish immigrant parents in 1904. He attended St. Casimir's Parochial School, and graduated from Cathedral Latin School in 1922, John Carroll University in 1926, and Western Reserve University Law School in 1929.

Rutkowski began his career in public service as an assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor under Ray T. Miller in 1931. Ten years later, after accumulating experience in all levels of Ohio courts, he was appointed by Mayor Frank J. Lausche to the position of Chief Police Prosecutor. He was appointed to the municipal bench in 1946, but was unsuccessful in his election bid. In 1949, now Governor Lausche tapped him to be Chief of Enforcement for the Ohio Department of Liquor Control. He would hold that post until 1953.

In 1952, he ran for Common Pleas Court, but failed at the polls. Lausche again came calling, this time to serve the liquor control board as Director. In November of 1954, Rutkowski was once again appointed to municipal court. A year later, he was rewarded with an election victory for the unexpired term. He would continue on the municipal bench until his retirement.

He passed away in 1982 at the age of 78.

Anthony A. Rutkowski served Cleveland Municipal Court from October 19, 1946 to November 25, 1947 and again from December 4, 1954 to January 3, 1974.



Michael John Ryan

Michael John Ryan excelled in school, despite a mother with addictions, an absent father and an abusive stepfather. After graduating from Cleveland Heights High, he received his B.A. in English from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania in 1993 and his J.D. from the Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1996, and was admitted to the Ohio bar

He began his public service career while in law school. First as a mediator with the Cleveland Prosecutor's Office, Criminal Division, he eventually became a law clerk in the Civil Division.

Passing the bar, he was hired as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the city Prosecutor's Office. In 1998, he joined the Cleveland Department of Public Safety as the Administrator for the Office of Professional Standards

In 2000, after a time in private practice, he was hired as a Magistrate at Cleveland Municipal Court. He was the youngest full-time Magistrate in court history. He was elected for a term as a judge on the court, and was since elected to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Juvenile Division in November 2012.

In 2007, Ryan began work on his inspiring autobiography, titled The Least Likely, which tells of his improbable rise from an impoverished youth to a distinguished life as a jurist. The book was published in 2015.

Michael John Ryan served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 5, 2006 to November 30, 2012.



Shirley Strickland Saffold

Shirley Strickland Saffold received her B.A. degree from Central State University and her J.D. from Cleveland Marshall College of Law and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1977.

Prior to her election to Cleveland Municipal Court, she was a Staff Attorney with the Legal Aid Society in the Public Defender's Office.

Elected in 1987 to municipal court, Saffold was in her second term when she ran successfully for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. As of this writing, she remains on that bench.

Shirley Strickland Saffold served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 2, 1988 to January 9, 1995.



Fielder Sanders

Fielder Sanders was born in Washington D.C. in 1876, coming to Cleveland as a young boy. He attended public schools and graduated from Central High School in 1893. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Adelbert College in 1897.

He became a Republican precinct captain right after graduation from Western Reserve Law School in 1901. His first steps in his legal career were to establish himself in private practice. In 1909, he joined the Prosecutors Office as an Assistant County Prosecutor.

He led the legal team in procuring property and rights for building the High Level Bridge. Following the bridge success, he ran for a seat on the new municipal court. As a member of the first group of municipal judges, he was required to run again in 1913 as an incumbent. After two terms on the court, Sanders turned to the city administration, becoming the Traction Commissioner in 1915. From there he returned to private practice. His last public sector job was as City Councilman. Elected in 1923, he would run successfully for re-election in 1925 and 1927. In 1929, he was finished as a councilman, retiring to private practice once more.

He passed away in 1933 at the age of 57.

Fielder Sanders served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1912 to December 20, 1915.



Eugene J. Sawicki

Eugene Joseph Sawicki was born in Cleveland. He attended the universities of Notre Dame and Michigan, and received his law degree from the Western Reserve University School of Law in 1934.

When Sawicki was elected to the General Assembly in 1952, his family became the first in Ohio's history to send a father (Joseph F. 1905-1908 and 1911-1912) and two sons to the legislature. A brother, Edwin F., was an elected state representative.

Sawicki became a state senator in 1958 and chaired its judiciary committee. While he was in the legislature, state political writers voted him a member of the "Ohio Legislative All-Stars." He moved from Shaker Heights to Cleveland when he was appointed in 1963 by Governor Michael V. DiSalle to municipal court.

He was an elected Common Pleas judge from 1969 to 1980, and served as a visiting judge for another six years.

He passed away in 1998 at age 89.

Eugene J. Sawicki served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 3, 1963 to January 10, 1969.



Joseph F. Sawicki

Joseph Francis Sawicki was a native of Gorzno, Poland, in 1881. His family came to the United States when he was five years old. In both private practice and public service, his legal career would span a somewhat checkered 64 years.

He was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1904 after receiving his law degree from the Cleveland Law School of Baldwin Wallace College. His growing private practice made him a prominent candidate for the Ohio Legislature. He experienced two terms as a representative from 1906 to 1908 and again 1911 to 1912. While in the legislature, he authored the first automobile license law.

Early in 1919, he was appointed by Governor James M. Cox to an unexpired term on the municipal court, and was successful in the election for the remaining term the following November. Reviews of his work were favorable, but his career on the bench was ruined by, what he called, a series of poor real estate investments.

Sawicki had filed for federal bankruptcy in 1932, listing liabilities at \$201,781 and assets of \$89,125. Among his listed creditors were a number of practicing attorneys. His financial problems first became public when it was revealed that two checks that he had written to pay taxes were held for more than a year, and then found to be worthless. It had become standard practice within the Treasurer's office to allow more prominent taxpayers a somewhat more liberal collection deadline. Compounding these problems was the disclosure that he had profited from a transaction where he falsely represented that taxes on a property had been paid, and that he covered some losses by borrowing money from lawyers who were practicing in his court, and from their clients.

The Cleveland Bar Association declared its intention to press charges against Sawicki, demanding either his retirement or removal. Early into the investigation, he vowed he would not resign from the bench, claiming that "*I have done nothing that warrants it.*" However, the combination of pressure brought against him by media, the public and the bar association eventually led to him abandon his seat.

Sawicki submitted his resignation through the Cleveland Bar Association on April 18, 1933, effective June 30, 1933. At the time of these accusations and resignation, Sawicki had been on the court for nearly 15 years.

Although his money woes cost him his seat on the bench, it did not cost him his livelihood. He had his practice and he must have had some loyal friends with influence. He was an appointed member of the Cleveland Charter Commission in 1953 and in 1959, a Special Counsel for the Ohio Attorney General. In the 1960s, his son Eugene would also take a seat on the municipal court.

He passed away in 1969 at the age of 88.

Joseph F. Sawicki served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1919 to June 30, 1933.



Charles L. Selzer

Charles L. Selzer was a Cleveland native, born in 1859. He was a product of the public schools, most notably West High. After high school, he was employed in the law office of John W. Heisley for 3 years while attending the Cleveland Law School. At this time, he co-founded *The Cuyahogan*, as a weekly newspaper published in Brooklyn Village. When admitted to the bar, he established a private practice that would eventually include his son.

His very busy public career started with his election as Mayor of Brooklyn when it was a separate municipality. It was during his second term in 1892 that he urged annexation, which finally took place in 1894. In 1900 he was a member of the Decennial Board of Equalization and Revision of Real Estate Values. In 1901, he was elected a Representative to the state Legislature. He became a City Councilman in 1905, representing the 6th ward during the administration of Tom L. Johnson, to whom he was closely associated.

He was appointed as the first Chief Bailiff of municipal court in 1912. During his tenure as Chief Bailiff, the summons by mail procedure was begun, which streamlined and greatly reduced the cost of litigation. Later, Selzer drafted and lobbied for the passage of bills to expand the jurisdiction of the court, to make criminal bonds legal liens on real estate and the authorization for cash bonds. Governor James M. Cox appointed him judge of the court in 1918 to fill an unexpired term. He would serve as a judge until he retired.

He passed away at the age of 79 in 1938.

Charles L. Selzer served the Municipal Court of Cleveland as Chief Bailiff from January 1, 1912 to January 31, 1918 and as Judge from February 1, 1918 to December 31, 1933.



Joseph H. Silbert

Joseph H. Silbert was a native of Odessa, Russia, whose family arrived in Cleveland when he was four. His father made a living as a house painter, while young Silbert shined shoes and peddled newspapers. He graduated from Central High and in 1923 received his law degree from Cleveland Law School, and passed the bar.

A busy private practice followed until 1931-1932, when he served a term in the Ohio Legislature. He followed that with two years as Special Counsel to the Ohio Attorney General. From 1933 to 1936, he was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Police and Fire Pension Board.

His judicial career began on the municipal court, and led first to Common Pleas Court, and ultimately to the 8th District Ohio Court of Appeals, where he would serve as Chief Justice for the last six years of his career. He retired in 1983.

He passed away in 1986 at the age of 84.

Joseph H. Silbert served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1936 to January 1, 1949, when the seat was abolished.



Samuel H Silbert



Samuel H. Silbert was born in Kiev, Ukraine in 1881. His widowed mother and her four children came to Newark, N.J. when young Sam was six. He worked selling newspapers, in an ink factory and as an apprentice silversmith. He was a successful amateur boxer, winning the New Jersey state championship for the 102 # weight class. His first ambition was to be a professional boxer. However, a lop-sided loss convinced him his future lay elsewhere. Now 16 years old, Silbert convinced his mother to relocate west, with the Silbert clan ending up in Denver. He made his way to Cleveland by 1902, working days and schooling at night to graduate high school, college and law school. His graduation from Cleveland Law School and admittance to the Ohio bar came in 1907.

His private law practice was put on hold when in 1911 he was appointed Assistant Police Prosecutor by Mayor Newton D. Baker, serving until 1915. He was instrumental in establishing a conciliation system which was credited with settling over 29,000 disputes over the next 4 years. In 1915, Silbert was successfully elected from 28 candidates for the municipal court bench. At the court, he introduced several judicial novelties, including a water cure for alcoholics by which defendants could avoid the workhouse by downing 10 glasses of water each day. He was heard to quip that the high intake of water would leave the defendant too full for stronger drink. This idea spread to other courts and countries with varying degrees of attributed success. He was also the first judge to impound a vehicle as a means of punishment for reckless or drunken driving.

In 1923 Silbert was defeated for Chief Justice of the municipal court, but he shook off defeat by being elected to the Common Pleas Court in 1924. There he remained for the next 45 years, (thought to be a record) serving as Chief Justice (1955-1963), until his retirement in 1969. Much of his tenure was served in Divorce Court, handling almost 100,000 cases in his career. As a nationally recognized authority on domestic relations, divorce, and marital problems, he reconciled thousands of couples.

For over 35 years, Silbert was a trustee and a teacher at Cleveland Marshal Law School. His hobbies were books and his violin. He was said to possess a private library which exceeded 3,000 volumes. He, along with Sidney A. Eisenberg co-authored a book titled Judge Sam in 1963. "The law," Silbert once said, "*should possess a soul and a heart. It should have sympathy and humanity as its basis.*"

He passed away in 1976 at the age of 92.

Samuel H Silbert served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1916 to November 30, 1924.

Lee E. Skeel

Lee E. Skeel was born in White City, Kansas in 1888. His family came to East Cleveland when he was three. He graduated from Shaw High School in 1907, and Hiram College in 1909. Obtaining a degree from Cleveland Law School in 1912, he began his legal career with a firm for a salary of \$25 a month until war broke out.

He enlisted in the Army in 1917, and saw service in France during World War I, attaining the rank of Sergeant Major with the 322nd Machine Gun Battalion, 83rd Division.

His legal career resumed after the war in 1919. He was named Chief Counsel for the Cleveland Automobile Club in 1920. Like many who have gone on to combine the law and a public service career, Skeel gained experience as the Chief Police Prosecutor from January 1922 to September of 1923. He resigned that position to run for the municipal court, where he was successful in his first attempt. He was active in promoting traffic safety, serving as president of the Cleveland Safety Council for over 20 years and a stint as Chairman of the Ohio Safety Council as well.

In addition to his 43 years on the bench serving Municipal (7), Cuyahoga County Common Pleas (10) and Appeals (26) courts, Skeel dedicated himself to the education of future lawyers. He joined the faculty of Cleveland Law School, teaching Personal Property, Criminal Law and Appellate Procedure until 1960. He served as the Dean from 1937 until 1946, when that school merged with the John Marshall Law School to become the Cleveland Marshall Law School. He was appointed President of the school in 1946.

His dedication to the law and to legal education did not stop at the administration of law school. He also wrote or revised essential texts like Skeel's Ohio Appellate Law, Baldwin's Ohio Criminal Practice Manual, and Baldwin's Ohio Civil Practice Manual.

It was from the appellate court he would retire due to health reasons in 1967.

He passed away in 1968 at the age of 80.

Lee E. Skeel served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1924 to December 31, 1930.



Michael R. Sliwinski

Michael Robert Sliwinski, a native Clevelander, graduated from Padua High School. His enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps. led him to be stationed at Kaneohe Bay in Hawaii. While in the Corps. he enrolled at Chaminade University, taking night classes. When his 4 year stint expired, he remained in Hawaii to complete his degree from Chaminade. When he returned to Ohio, he earned his law degree from the University of Dayton.



Prior to coming to this court, he lost a 2014 election, running for Cuyahoga County Probate Court. Formerly an Assistant Ohio Attorney General, and staff attorney at the Ohio Lottery Commission, he is also a trustee of the Cuyahoga County Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

Michael R. Sliwinski was appointed to the court by Governor John Kasich.

Michael Robert Sliwinski has served the Cleveland Municipal Court from April 2016, to present.

Joseph F. Smith

Joseph F. Smith was born in Conneaut in 1892, but his formative years were spent in Cygnet. His early education was earned in Bowling Green. He enrolled in Notre Dame University in 1910, sharing a room with the future legendary football coach Knute Rockne. The two roommates worked summers together at the Cedar Point Resort. Both graduated in 1914.

Smith gained his law degree at Notre Dame and was admitted to the Ohio and Indiana bar in 1917. While he would quickly begin a private practice, it was just as quickly interrupted by World War I. In the Field Artillery, Smith rose to the rank of Lieutenant. His military service would end in 1919, and he would return to private practice, this time in Cleveland.

Smith entered into public service as a Police Prosecutor under Law Director Carl Shuler in 1924. After a year in criminal court on Champlain Street, he was called to city hall as a trial lawyer. When the land scandals hit in 1929, Smith was assigned by Shuler to supervise all city land purchases, as well as street improvements and condemnation cases in the city. He remained with the Law Department through 1930 when he was appointed to municipal court by Governor Myers Y. Cooper. He was successful in running for the remaining term, but lost the election for a new term for 1934.

Smith returned to the law department as an assistant to Law Director Henry F. Brainard following his election loss. He would remain in that position until his retirement in 1956.

He passed away in 1957 at the age of 64.

Joseph F. Smith served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1931 to December 31, 1933.



Larry G. Smith

Lawrence Gilbert Smith graduated from John Adams High School, received his undergraduate degree from California State University - Long Beach and his law degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1972.

His public service career included terms as a General Trial Referee for the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Domestic Relations Division, and as Chief Legal Counsel for the Ohio Department of Industrial Relations.

Governor George Voinovich appointed Smith to municipal court in 1995. Unfortunately, he was unsuccessful in the election for the balance of the term. Following his defeat at the polls, he returned to private practice.

Larry G. Smith served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 10, 1995 to December 17, 1995.



Jacob Stacel

Jacob Stacel worked his way through life and school, beginning at an early age, first as a bootblack and newsboy. While in high school and while studying law, he played with orchestras in movie houses, where he was an accomplished violinist. Later he found steady employment toiling as an accountant and head bookkeeper at two fruit auction companies. These jobs paid for his education all the way through Western Reserve Law School.

He began his public service career in 1916. His first post was city Claims Adjuster for 4 years, then City Council for 4 years. He also served the city as an Assistant Law Director, and as the Chief Police Prosecutor.

He joined the court in 1926. Unfortunately, in 1941 he succumbed to a heart attack on the steps of City Hall when returning from lunch. Because the state legislature had reduced the number of judgeships in municipal court to 14, following Stacel's death, his seat was abolished.

He passed away at the age of 55 in 1941.

Jacob Stacel served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1926 to September 10, 1941.



Joseph Stearns

Joseph Stearns was born in Karcag, Hungary, and immigrated to New York City in 1920. He came to Cleveland in 1927.

He began his law career upon graduation from John Marshall Law School in 1934. After establishing a private practice, he joined the city Prosecutors Office in 1942. He served as the Chief Police Prosecutor for 6 years

In August 1952, Judge Lewis Drucker passed away. In his place, Governor Frank J. Lausche appointed Albert A. Woldman, the Ohio Industrial Relations Director, to the unexpired term. Woldman eventually declined the appointment, preferring not to relocate to Cleveland. Instead, the appointment went to Stearns. He was continually re-elected until his death.

He passed away in 1974 at the age of 72.

Joseph Stearns served Cleveland Municipal Court from March 13, 1953 to December 1, 1974.



Alfred L. Steuer

Alfred Lawrence Steuer was born in Cleveland in June of 1892. He attended public schools through high school, graduating in 1909. He received a degree from Harvard College in 1913 and graduated from Harvard University Law School in 1915. That same year he passed the Ohio bar. He entered into private practice until he volunteered for the Army in World War I.



After his military service, he returned to his law practice. Appointed to the bench by Governor Myers Y. Cooper, he was successful in two elections. As a judge, Steuer was deeply concerned for the plight of alcoholics. In 1932, he was instrumental in the establishment of a clinic for hard core alcoholics at the city infirmary. On one occasion while attempting to cure a man of alcoholism, he offered the defendant a choice of 30 days confinement in the workhouse or a half pint of castor oil. The man chose the castor oil. In 1935 Judge Steuer was featured on radio station WJAY in broadcasts of some court hearings.

He resigned his judgeship to take a position as a liquidator for saving & loan associations throughout Ohio. After three years of liquidations, he would return to his private practice.

He passed away in 1967 at the age of 75.

Alfred L. Steuer served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 1, 1931 to August 1, 1939.

Francis L. Stevens

Francis Lewellyn Stevens was born in Alvinson, Ontario, Canada in 1877. His early education came in Canada, graduating high school in Wallaceburg, Ontario in 1894. His family came to Lorain where Francis learned the machine trade and earned a stationary engineer's license. Plying his trade took him to Indiana, Columbus and finally to Cleveland. As a machinist foreman with a wife and three children, he studied law at night at Cleveland Law School at Baldwin Wallace College, graduating and passing the bar in 1911.



Shortly thereafter, he was hired as an Assistant City Solicitor in the Law Department.

Stevens was elected to the municipal court in 1919, but failed in his bid for re-election in 1927. In 1925, Councilwoman Helen K. Green referred to Judge Frank L. Stevens court as the “whispering gallery”. She petitioned Chief Justice John P. Dempsey to have all liquor cases removed from Stevens’ court and turned over to Judge Alva R. Corlett or Judge Virgil J. Terrell. Green felt that Stevens’s personal feelings toward prohibition prevented him from effectively judging a liquor case. She said, “Judge Stevens told me he didn’t think the prohibition laws could be enforced in 1,000 years. I respect his right to his opinion but I submit that law enforcement ought to be in the hands of those in sympathy with them and who will make a sincere effort to enforce them.” His opinion on prohibition was that the laws did not go far enough. *“If we’re going to have prohibition, let’s have it and make the penalties equally severe, regardless of the kind of liquor. Let’s not discriminate in favor of certain classes of people who want wine.”*

After his term on the court, he became a name partner in a law firm.

He passed away in 1935 at the age of 58.

Francis L. Stevens served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1920 to December 31, 1927.

Angela R. Stokes

Angela Rochelle Stokes was born and raised in the greater Cleveland community and comes from a renowned family of public servants. She is the daughter of the late U.S. Congressman Louis Stokes and the niece of the late Carl B. Stokes, former U.S. Ambassador, Mayor of Cleveland and Judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court.

She graduated with honors from the University of Maryland, receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. She received her Juris Doctorate from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. and was admitted to the bar.

As an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio, Stokes served from 1984 to 1990 and again from 1993 to 1995 in the Federal Litigation and Employment Services sections respectively. Prior to that, she was employed with BP America, Inc. in the corporate law department, where her areas of expertise included employment, labor, and benefits law.

She was elected to municipal court in 1995. During her tenure on the municipal bench she established Project HOPE (Holistic Opportunities and Preventative Education), a court program for prostitution offenders.

Virtually from the beginning, Stokes tenure on the court was marked with controversy. She was frequently accused of being devoid of appropriate judicial temperament. In 2011, her conduct ultimately resulted in a complaint containing over 200 allegations being filed against her with the office of the Disciplinary Council of the Ohio Supreme Court. Stokes contested the filing and the dispute dragged on for more than 4 years, costing the city over 1 million dollars in legal fees and costs. Following almost a year of hearings, a negotiated settlement resulted in Stokes' retirement from the court without any finding of wrongdoing but with her agreement not to seek or accept a judicial office in Ohio thereafter.

Angela R. Stokes served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 18, 1995 to January 6, 2016.



Carl B. Stokes

Carl Burton Stokes is one of a handful of African Americans to have served in all three branches of government.

Although he was a good student, Stokes was attracted to the street life around him and became proficient at shooting pool. He dropped out of East Technical High School and when he turned 18, joined the Army, serving in postwar Germany. Upon his return from the military, he completed high school in 1947 and spent a year at West Virginia State College. He later attended Western Reserve University and finally received his bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota. The passion for excellence Stokes demonstrated in the political world was foreshadowed earlier in athletics. In boxing, he won the West Virginia State College Middleweight Championship in 1948. He also won the University of Minnesota Billiard Championship in 1953.



He returned to Cleveland in 1954 and earned his law degree at Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1956. He worked as an investigator for the Ohio Department of Liquor Control and as a probation officer at Cleveland Municipal Court until he graduated and passed the bar. He established himself in private practice.

In 1962, he became the first black Democrat elected to the Ohio House. During his first term, Stokes was named the top freshman in the legislature. He served six years in which he was known for the passage of fair housing legislation and as an advocate of gun control. In 1965, he made his first run for mayor but lost a close race to incumbent Mayor Ralph J. Locher. Two years later in 1967, he defeated Locher in the primary and went on to beat Republican Seth Taft. The 1967 election was quite a story. Stokes was the great-grandson of a slave, running against Seth Taft, the grandson of a president. The victory put him on the cover of *Time Magazine*. He was re-elected in 1969. Stokes surprised the community when he announced in 1971 that he would not run again. He said he did not believe he would be able to bring about further change in the community. Years later, he explained that he gave up the post in reaction to massive cutbacks in federal support for cities. He wrote many articles on urban and political affairs. His autobiography, *Promises of Power*, was published in 1973. An updated version was released in 1989.

The spring after he left City Hall, Stokes became an anchorman on NBC's flagship station, WNBC-TV in New York City. He later became a roving reporter. In addition to doing local stories, he often interviewed prominent visitors to the United Nations and traveled on assignments to Africa. He won an Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for outstanding individual craft in feature reporting for a discussion of a Broadway play based on the life of the late Paul Robeson.

Stokes returned to Cleveland in 1980 and worked as a labor lawyer for three years. His clients included two regions of the United Auto Workers. He was elected as a municipal judge in 1983. He was the first freshman judge selected to serve as the presiding and administrative judge of the court. He held those posts for two of his years on the bench. In addition to his judicial duties, he taught a political science class at Case Western Reserve University for four years.

Stokes' term on the bench was not without controversy. He frequently angered the very judges who took a leap of faith to elect him Administrative/Presiding judge in his first year on the bench. The initial dispute began between Stokes and the Jury Commissioner over

Carl Stokes continued

seating juries on Fridays, a situation routinely avoided in municipal court at that time.

Stokes also clashed with the staff of the Legal Aid Society over their representation of prostitutes. It was his position that professional prostitutes did not qualify for indigent representation. The situation escalated when he barred a Legal Aid attorney from his courtroom. He later held the Legal Aid Director in contempt of court. The society responded with a filing in the court of appeals. As the litigation progressed, Stokes dropped the contempt charge. The appellate court however, ruled to prohibit Stokes from controlling the courtroom assignments of Legal Aid attorneys, or whom they were represented.

Stokes' behavior in the community also resulted in legal trouble. He was accused of shoplifting a screwdriver from a home-improvement store, as well as a bag of dry dog food from a Shaker Heights pet store. Although there was no prosecution, Stokes made a voluntary \$50 restitution for the \$2.39 screwdriver. With regard to the pet store incident, Stokes was charged with and tried for petty theft. Stokes demanded a jury trial in Shaker Heights Municipal Court; the court closed the jury selection to the media, which touched off a dispute between the court and *The Plain Dealer*. The trial spanned 4 days. Testimony during the trial established that on the day of the alleged theft, Stokes visited the store 3 times, the first before 9 am. He was told the store was not open that early; nonetheless, he took his dog food and left, without being noticed. Although he returned to the store twice more during the day, he made no offer of payment. Apparently the jury accepted his explanation that he meant to pay the \$17.25 for the dog food. They acquitted him after 2 hours and 20 minutes of deliberation.

Lastly, Stokes chose to take on Clerk of Court Jerome F. Krakowski with contempt of court charges. Stokes accused Krakowski of circulating a letter impugning the integrity of the court and ignoring his orders to explain the letter and misplacement of court files. The letter in question accused an unnamed judge (presumed to be Stokes) of attempting to intimidate clerk employees. Later, the offices of the clerk were broken into, the suspect being a court employee, who had been seen in conference with Stokes during the Krakowski hearings. Krakowski attributed Stokes behavior to a desire to run for mayor, with Stokes making preemptory moves to eliminate possible competitors. Ultimately, neither man entered a mayoral race.

In 1994, President Clinton appointed Stokes Ambassador to the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean. In 1995, after he was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus, he took a medical leave of absence. He endured radiation treatments and chemotherapy in addition to surgery to remove a tumor.

Despite all the treatments, Stokes died from complications of esophageal cancer in 1996 at the age of 68.

Carl B. Stokes served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 9, 1983 to August 28, 1994.

Joseph P. Sullivan

Joseph Phillip Sullivan, a native Clevelander, was an 11th hour appointment by Governor Frank J. Lausche to the bench at the Municipal Court of Cleveland. Sullivan was chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the sudden death of Judge Brookes Friebolin. Lausche had less than 12 hours remaining in his term as Governor to make this last appointment.

Sullivan attended St. Jerome's Parochial School, and graduated from St. Ignatius High School in 1933. He received his undergraduate degree from John Carroll University in 1937. In 1940, he graduated from Western Reserve University Law School and passed the Ohio Bar.

His early legal career was spent as an Assistant Police Prosecutor, Assistant City Law Director and twice Executive Assistant to Mayor Thomas A. Burke, the position he held when named to the bench. When sworn in by Chief Justice John J. Busher, Sullivan was only 30, at that time, the youngest man to be named to any bench in the Cleveland area. Unfortunately, he was unsuccessful in the election for the remaining term. He would return to private practice.

He passed away in 1974 at the age of 58.

Joseph P. Sullivan served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 11, 1947 to November 24, 1947.



Gerald Francis Sweeney

Gerald Francis Sweeney was a lifelong resident of Cleveland. A graduate of St. Ignatius High School and Baldwin Wallace College, he received his Juris Doctorate from Cleveland Marshall Law School.

Sweeney successfully divided his legal career between the private and public sectors. He served Mayors Anthony J. Celebrezze, Ralph J. Locher, and George Voinovich in various capacities and was elected to the Cleveland Board of Education from 1970 to 1977.

For over 20 years, he was a lawyer/legislative specialist for Ameritrust, where he served as Vice-President of Governmental Affairs. After his retirement from Ameritrust, he engaged in private practice specializing in criminal assignments from Common Pleas Court.

Sweeney successfully ran for a remaining term on municipal court. He served out the term, and retired, due to statutory age restrictions.

Gerald Francis Sweeney served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 8, 1995 to December 31, 1999.



John E. Sweeney

John E. Sweeney was a 1928 graduate of Lake Erie School of Law. He worked as a bookkeeper and a mill representative for the Cleveland Worsted Mills. In 1930, he was the secretary-bailiff in Common Pleas Court. He organized the first Roosevelt for President Club in Ohio in 1932. He was elected Ohio Secretary of State in 1940. He was unsuccessful in his re-election effort, but Governor John W. Bricker named him to the Ohio Board of Liquor Control in 1943. He would later resign to run successfully for municipal court, a post he would retain until his successful campaign for a seat on the Domestic Relations Division of Common Pleas Court.



Sweeney caused considerable debate when he ran for the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1956. He lost to eventual Governor Michael V. DiSalle. He refused to accept a Cleveland Bar Association request to resign from the bench because he was running for governor. He took a leave of absence instead. He retired in 1972 after 12 years as a domestic relations judge.

He passed away in 1978 at the age of 80.

John E. Sweeney served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 1, 1944 to January 8, 1961.

Martin L. Sweeney

Martin Leonard Sweeney worked as a longshoreman and construction worker while attending Cleveland Law School part-time, graduating and being admitted to the Ohio bar in 1914.

After one term (1913-1914) in the Ohio Legislature, Sweeney entered private practice until 1923, when he became a municipal court judge. On the bench he vocally opposed Prohibition.

In 1931, Sweeney won election to the U.S. Congress. At the 1932 Democratic National Convention, he supported Franklin Roosevelt resulting in a split with the county party. After losing the 1933 Democratic mayoral primary in Cleveland, the split widened. Sweeney supported the Republican candidate. Re-elected in 1934 and 1936 without Democratic Party support, Sweeney considered his victories as mandates for independent action.

Sweeney would successfully defend his congressional seat in 1940 against Michael Feighan, but would lose to Feighan in 1942. After failing to win a nomination for governor in 1944, Sweeney returned to private practice with his son.

He passed away in 1960 at the age of 75.

Martin L. Sweeney served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 1, 1924 to November 4, 1931.



Suzan M. Sweeney

Suzan Marie Sweeney is a native Clevelander, raised in the West Park neighborhood. Her education began at Riverside Elementary followed by Our Lady of Angels Elementary before graduating from Magnificat High School. While her collegiate experience included an Honors Government program in Washington D.C. at Georgetown University, she completed her undergraduate work at Cleveland State University in 1983, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. She attained a Juris Doctorate in 1990 from Cleveland Marshall College of Law, toiling in night sessions while working full-time. She was admitted to the bar in May of 1991.



Her legal career began as a law clerk in the Juvenile Division of the Cuyahoga County Public Defender Office. She transferred to the Felony Division in 1993, beginning her career as an Assistant Public Defender. When Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court instituted a specialized Mental Health docket, Sweeney received intensive training to aid her in representing those defendants afflicted with mental issues. In addition, she served the community as a member of the Pediatric Ethics Committee at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. This group offered assistance to parents facing difficult medical decisions in the care of their children.

After more than 2 decades as a defense attorney, she was elected to a full term on the bench in November of 2015.

Suzan M. Sweeney began her service to Cleveland Municipal Court on January 1, 2016.

Joan C. Synenberg

Joan Coletta Synenberg was raised in the Cleveland area, graduating from Mayfield High School while active in student government, drama and athletics. Receiving her bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University, she worked her way through law school as a social worker at the Cuyahoga County jail and as a Bailiff in Common Pleas Court.

Following law school, she started her own practice and over 16 years, she represented over 1,000 people in all types of cases. At the time she assumed the bench, she and her husband were partners in the firm of Synenberg and Synenberg.

In January 2005, Governor Robert Taft appointed Synenberg to municipal court to fill an unexpired term. In 2007, she was elected to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. In 2012, she was unsuccessful in her bid for re-election. Governor John Kasich subsequently appointed her to return to Common Pleas Court to fill an unexpired term.

Joan C. Synenberg served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 28, 2005 to December 31, 2006.



Pauline H. Tarver

Pauline Harriet Tarver graduated from John Adams High School and John Carroll University. She later received her law degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School.

After graduation, she worked as a community organizer, and with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center as the Justice Systems Coordinator. She counseled victims, trained the Grand Jury, and advised the Cleveland Police Department and the Ohio Patrolmen's Association. She also served briefly as Acting Executive Director.

Tarver was hired to serve as the Executive Director of the Cleveland Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and as such, became the organization's liaison between community organizations, corporations, and local and state government. Her law practice included criminal misdemeanor, personal injury, domestic relations, bankruptcy and probate cases. She also served as an Acting Magistrate for the East Cleveland Municipal Court.

In November 2003, in her first attempt, Tarver was elected to the Cleveland court. She lost her seat in the November 2015 election, and returned to private practice.

Tarver passed away at the age of 63 in July of 2017.

Pauline H. Tarver served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 3, 2004 to January 2, 2016.



George S. Tenesy

George S. Tenesy was a native of Czechoslovakia, born in 1887. His father died before he was born and his mother came to this country when George was less than a year old. His primary education was gained at the Union Public School and from Our Lady of Lourdes. Later he attended Spencerian Commercial School and Baldwin Wallace College. He obtained his law degree from Cleveland Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1919.



In private practice, Tenesy was recruited to serve as an Assistant County Prosecutor when Ray T. Miller was County Prosecutor. When Miller took office as mayor, Tenesy was appointed as the head of the Criminal Division of the Law Department, Chief Police Prosecutor in 1932.

He resigned from that position in 1933 to make an unsuccessful run for the municipal court bench. Despite this loss, one month later he would be appointed by Governor George White to fill an unexpired term. He ran for the remaining term, but lost, and vacated the seat.

When his brief turn on the court ended, he returned to private practice until public service once again called. In 1937, he was engaged as the Chief Counsel for the newly established Unemployment Compensation Commission in the state capital. Two years in Columbus helping to organize the Unemployment Bureau led him back to Cleveland, once again to private practice and to open Buckeye Realty, his own real estate firm. He was active as both a lawyer and a realtor until his death.

He passed away in 1948 at the age of 61.

George S. Tenesy served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from December 29, 1933 to November 15, 1935.

Virgil J. Terrell

Virgil Joseph Terrell devoted nearly all his life to public service, the greatest part of it judicial. He was born on the west side of Cleveland in 1881 on Bridge Avenue, in the shadow of St. Patrick's Church. His grandfather, Ichabod Terrell had come west with the rest of the Connecticut pioneers and broke ground for a farm on what is now Public Square.

Terrell attended the parish school and later studied at Dayton University. He returned to Cleveland as a stenographer, a trade he was said to have found useful in case preparation later in his career. Studying law at Cleveland Law School, he was admitted to the bar in 1903. From the time he began his public life as a Justice of the Peace in 1907, he held that office until 1912. He served in the state legislature, two terms in the Ohio House of Representatives beginning in 1913, and one term in the Ohio Senate.

He was twice a member of the Common Pleas Court, first a short term in 1918 and again after his time on the municipal bench in 1930. In 1934, he won election to the Ohio Court of Appeals, 8th District. He would serve there until defeated at the polls in a close race in 1940. In his last year as an appellate judge, he would serve as Chief Justice.

He passed away at age 63 in 1945.

Virgil J. Terrell served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from February 11, 1919 to December 31, 1930.



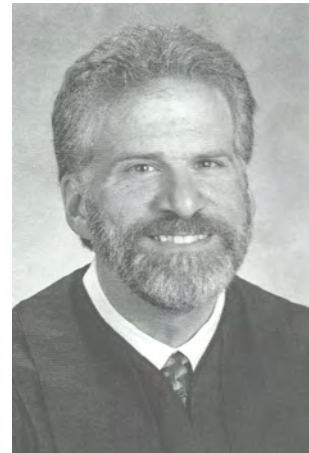
Robert J. Triozzi

Robert James Triozzi was a native of Ashtabula. He received his B.A. degree from Cornell University and came to Cleveland to study law at Case Western Reserve University. Obtaining his J.D. in 1982, he went first into private practice.

In 1992, he left private practice to become District Director for Congressman Eric D. Fingerhut in Ohio's 19th U.S. Congressional District. With this experience, Triozzi made his first run for a seat on the Cleveland Municipal Court a winner, as was his re-election in 2001.

Resigning his seat in July 2005, Triozzi ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Cleveland, then served as Law Director for Mayor Frank Jackson. He has since stepped down as Law Director to return to private practice. In 2014, Triozzi was appointed to the position of Cuyahoga County Law Director, a post he continues to hold.

Robert J. Triozzi served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 3, 1996 to July 22, 2005.



George W. Trumbo

George William Trumbo was born in Newark, Ohio in 1926. His high school diploma was conferred by Newark High School in 1944. During World War II he saw action in the South Pacific with the United States Navy, serving as a Signalman aboard several vessels. He was Honorably Discharged in July of 1946.

Back to school he went after his Naval service. He received his B.S. degree majoring in Business Administration from Ohio State University and his law degree from Case Western Reserve University, graduating in 1952. It was in law school that he met his wife of 64 years, Judge Sara J. Harper.

In addition to private practice, Trumbo served 23 years in various capacities with the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. He was appointed by Governor James A. Rhodes to fill an unexpired term on the municipal court in 1982. He was successful in his run for a full term, and was re-elected for an additional term. However, he was defeated in his final bid for re-election.

He passed away in 2014 at the age of 88.

George W. Trumbo served Cleveland Municipal Court from April 19, 1982 to December 31, 1995.



Edmund J. Turk

Edmund John Turk was born in 1925, graduated from John Carroll University and received his J. D. degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School, passing the bar in 1955.

In addition to his private practice, Turk served six terms as a Cleveland City Councilman serving Ward 23 from 1961-1973. He was Chairman of the Ohio Public Utilities Commission, 1973-1975.

Prior to his appointment by Governor Richard Celeste to fill an unexpired term on the municipal court bench, he was Vice President of the Cleveland Civil Service Commission, from 1980 to 1984.



Edmund J. Turk served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 12, 1984 to December 31, 1985.

Charles A. Vanik

Charles Albert Vanik was born in Cleveland on April 7, 1913, and graduated from Western Reserve University in 1933 where he earned his law degree in 1936. Entering politics, he served on the Cleveland City Council from 1938 to 1939, and the Ohio State Senate from 1940 to 1942.

Vanik enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve as an Ensign in 1942, and saw action in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres.

Discharged as a Lieutenant in December 1945, he returned to Cleveland and was elected as a municipal court judge in 1947 to the remainder of a term, and again in 1949 for a new term. He would not complete that term, resigning to run for Congress.

Vanik represented Ohio's 21st Congressional District from 1955 to 1969. Of Czech background, his constituents were mostly of an Eastern European background. In 1968, after the state redistricting created a largely African-American majority in his district, Vanik surrendered his House seat in a move designed to allow Louis Stokes to run in the primarily black district. Vanik then defeated a longtime Republican for the seat in the largely white, suburban 22nd district, which he held until his retirement in 1981.

In 1985, he joined the Washington office of the Squire, Sanders & Dempsey law firm, where he worked for ten years on trade issues related to Eastern Europe.

Vanik died at his home in Jupiter, Florida, on August 30, 2007 at the age of 84.

Charles A. Vanik served Cleveland Municipal Court from November 25, 1947 to March 15, 1954.



Ralph Vince

Ralph Vince was an Italian immigrant who grew up working in the coal mines of southern Ohio. He watched his first football game when he was a senior at Martins Ferry High School. Realizing that a football scholarship was his ticket out of the coal mines, he joined the high school varsity team, then studied at and played for Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pa. He played both offense and defense for the Presidents. In 1922, the team played the favored University of California to a scoreless tie in the Rose Bowl.



After graduating from Washington & Jefferson in 1923, Vince enrolled at Western Reserve University's Law School. He paid his way through law school by playing in the young National Football League for the Cleveland Panthers and Canton Bulldogs and coaching the St. Ignatius High School Wildcats. He coached St. Ignatius to its first city championship in 1925. The Wildcats' record from 1923 through 1926 under his tutelage was so impressive, he was asked to coach at John Carroll University. Vince led the John Carroll Blue Streaks from 1927 to 1934 compiling a record of 31-23-11. He also served as the school's Athletic Director from 1934 through 1936. Outspoken and inventive as a coach, he was the inventor of the face mask. The original he created is on display at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. He also was the first coach to put an armband of plays on his quarterbacks' wrists, now a common sight in the game. In 1935, Vince left John Carroll to practice law. But he kept his hand in sports by officiating at high school, college and NFL games.

He was appointed as a municipal judge, and served two years as a councilman and four years as Law Director in University Heights.

During World War II, he agreed to coach at University School for one year. He stayed on an additional 12 years with winning teams.

In the early 1950s, he was appointed the Master Commissioner of the SS Noronic disaster litigation. He heard 669 lawsuits filed by those who were injured or lost family members in the 1949 ship fire in the Toronto harbor.

Vince maintained an office with a law firm after retiring as a senior partner in 1990. He was inducted into the St. Ignatius, John Carroll and Cleveland Sports Halls of Fame. In 1991, the Ralph Vince Fitness Center was dedicated at John Carroll University.

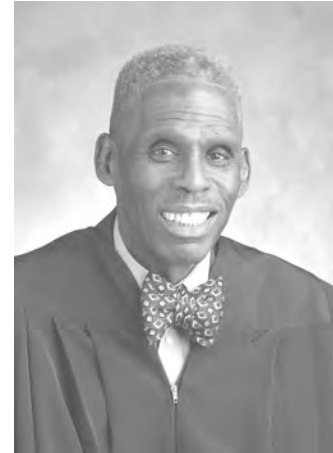
He passed away in 1996 at the age of 96.

Ralph Vince served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from January 3, 1945 to November 30, 1945.

Edward S. Wade Jr.

Edward Stanley Wade Jr., a lifelong resident of Cleveland, is a graduate of Glenville High School. Military service followed high school, with deployment to Vietnam, earning the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After his military service, Wade earned an Associate of Arts and Science degree from Cuyahoga Community College. Continuing his education, he followed that degree with a Bachelor Degree from the University of Dayton and a Juris Doctorate from the Howard University School of Law.



His work as a city prosecutor and a criminal defense lawyer gave him experience from both sides of the trial table. His fluency with the Spanish language is a unique skill set that enabled him to argue cases in Puerto Rico and Spain.

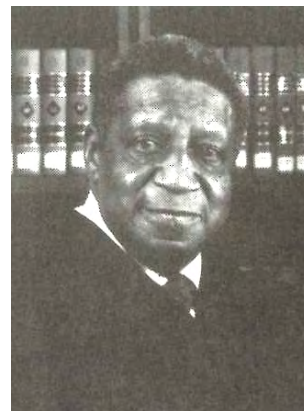
Wade was elected to complete an unexpired term in 2013. Facing term limits due to his age, Wade vied for another seat on the court, against an incumbent judge, in November of 2015. Successful in his challenge, he vacated his original seat by resignation on January 2, 2016, and began his new term on January 3, 2016.

Unfortunately, Wade took ill shortly after assuming his new position, and passed away in office.

Edward S. Wade Jr. served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 5, 2013 to September 26, 2016.

John E. Washington

John Elmer Washington was born in Cleveland in 1914. After graduating from Central High School, he attended Virginia State College and gained his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Fenn College. Further, he received his law degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School through classes at night, while he worked to pay his way as a deputy tax collector with the Internal Revenue Service. Washington passed the bar in 1952. He resigned from the IRS to establish his law practice in 1955.



He had two terms as Special Assistant to the Ohio Attorney General, from 1967-1971. In 1975, he made an unsuccessful attempt to gain a seat on the municipal court.

Appointed by Governor James A. Rhodes to fill an unexpired term, he was unsuccessful in his election for the remaining term. Following his term on the municipal bench, he worked as a hearing officer for the division of real estate of the Ohio Department of Commerce.

He passed away in 1982 at the age of 67.

John E. Washington served Cleveland Municipal Court from February 16, 1977 to January 3, 1978.

Lillian M. Westropp

Lillian Mary Westropp was born in Cleveland in 1884, and received her early education in Catholic schools. In 1903, she graduated from West High School, in 1904 from the Dyke School of Commerce and in 1905, from the Harroff School of Expression. Attracted to the stage, she went to New York where she became an actress. Appearing primarily in stock companies, she appeared in the plays East Lynne, and The Devil. In 1907, she relocated to California, becoming secretary to Elizabeth L. Kenny, the state's first woman lawyer. Four years later she returned to Cleveland to enter Cleveland-Marshall Law School, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1915. Westropp was one of the first women admitted to the Cleveland Bar Association and the first woman elected to its executive committee.



Engaged in private practice, emphasizing real estate and finance, she was recruited to become an Assistant County Prosecutor under Ray T. Miller in 1929. Her first attempt at an elected position was for Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court in 1930. It proved unsuccessful. She was appointed to the municipal bench in 1931 by Governor George White, and was continually re-elected until her 1957 retirement.

After her appointment to the municipal bench and observing the plight of the mentally ill, she was prompted to draft a plan for a psychiatric clinic, which was to become a reality in 1938 as a joint venture between municipal and common pleas courts.

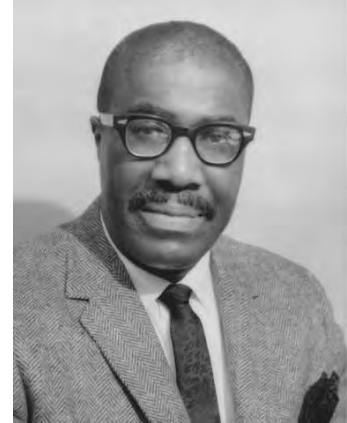
With her sister, Clara E., she organized Women's Federal Savings & Loan Association of Cleveland, serving as President from 1936-1957 and as Chairman of the Board of Directors until her death. Her objective was to give women confidence in their own financial ability and prove they could succeed.

She passed away in 1968 at the age of 84.

Lillian M. Westropp served Cleveland Municipal Court from November 5, 1931 to February 28, 1957.

Paul D. White

Paul Dunbar White was born in LaGrange, Kentucky. He graduated from high school in 1935 in North Vernon, Indiana, and earned his B.A. from Kentucky State College in 1940. There he was an honors student, a member of the choir and played on the Negro Collegiate National Championship football team. After graduation, he played professionally for one season on an Indianapolis team, and then worked at the Indiana State Boys School for a year before moving to Cleveland.



He found a position doing social work at Karamu House and the Friendly Inn Social Settlement. He entered the Army in 1943 and served as a sergeant in Europe. After the war, he joined the Cuyahoga County Child Welfare Board, and entered Western Reserve University School of Law. Passing the bar in 1950 led him to join the law office of Councilwoman Jean Murrell Capers. The following year he became an Assistant City Prosecutor.

White was an Assistant Chief Prosecutor when he was elected to Cleveland Municipal Court in 1963. He was the first black judge in Cleveland to be elected without having been appointed to a prior unfilled term. Newly elected Mayor Carl B. Stokes recruited White to be the Law Director in 1967. This was the top cabinet position at City Hall, which made White acting mayor when Stokes was out of town. But the political world was not to his liking. He resigned in six months and told friends that he did not want to ever have a political job again.

He joined the firm of Baker & Hostetler in 1968 and became the first black associate lawyer in a major Cleveland firm. In 1970, he became partner. White was an expert on public and labor law and affirmative action procedures. He continued to work as a senior partner until suffering a stroke in late 1996.

He died in 1997 at the age of 79.

Paul D. White served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 16, 1963 to December 15, 1967.

Pierre A. White

Pierre A. White was born at Sandusky, Ohio in 1889. He graduated from East High School in Cleveland in 1905. Leaving high school, White took a clerical position in a law office where he could work and study the law. In 1910, he graduated from the Cleveland Law School of Baldwin Wallace College. He passed the bar that same year, and established himself in private practice.



In 1915, he was appointed by Governor Frank Willis to the bench of Cleveland's fledgling municipal court at the age of 26. At the time he assumed this judicial office he had the distinction of being the youngest judge of a court of record in the United States.

When his term ended, White resumed his private practice and later served as Assistant Attorney General of Ohio, for the Cleveland district. One of White's early clients was the Cleveland Panthers, a professional football team in the first American Football League in 1926. They played their home games at the Luna Bowl in Luna Park.

He passed away in 1950 at the age of 61.

Pierre A. White served the Municipal Court of Cleveland from December 21, 1915 to December 15, 1917.

Theodore M. Williams

Theodore Martin Williams, the son of a waiter, paid for his education at the University of Michigan with jobs at the post office and playing banjo in a dance band. While studying at John Marshall Law School, he worked as a messenger and docket clerk in Newton D. Baker's law firm, graduating in 1932. His pay not only made school possible, but supported his wife, their two oldest children, and his father as well.



In addition to his private practice, he worked for various public assistance agencies. In 1941 his public service career began when he took a position as an Assistant Police Prosecutor in the City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office. He moved to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office as an Assistant Prosecutor in 1948. In 1952, he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Ward 12 City Council seat.

After eight years as a councilman, Williams was appointed to the municipal court bench in 1960 by Governor Michael V. DiSalle. Successfully elected in 1963 and 1969, he was forced to retire in 1975 after serving a year as the first Administrative Judge of municipal court. After his retirement, he continued working at municipal court as Judge Emeritus, functioning as a Visiting Judge. He would also serve the East Cleveland Municipal Court in that same capacity in 1987. He retired permanently in 1988.

He passed away in 1989 at the age of 84.

Theodore M. Williams served Cleveland Municipal Court as an elected judge from January 7, 1960 to December 31, 1975.

Joseph J. Zone

Joseph James Zone, a lifelong Clevelander, was raised on West Boulevard and graduated from St. Edward High School in 1972. His interest in social work led him to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Kent State University. He earned his law degree from the Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1980.

From 1981 until 2000, he was engaged in private practice. In 1995, he made a successful run for a seat on the Cleveland City Council. He won three subsequent elections.

His run for a seat on the Cleveland Municipal Court bench in 1999 fulfilled a childhood dream. As a municipal judge, he is devoted to resolving the problems encountered with mentally disordered offenders and substance abuse problems. He is a proponent of community service in lieu of, or in addition to jail time for law violators.

In 2011, the Ohio Supreme Court appointed Zone to serve on their Case Flow Management Committee and at the request of the Ohio Judicial College, he sits on a committee to develop a curriculum for judges to improve their mentoring skills. Zone also serves on the Public Confidence and Outreach Committee for the Ohio Judicial College; was past president of the Northern Ohio Municipal Judges Association and currently serves on the Board of Governors for the American Judges Association.



Joseph J. Zone has served Cleveland Municipal Court since January 1, 2000.