

“Before my husband was elected, I hadn’t given much thought about how his position would impact the rest of our family. Once he became a judge, the JFN was a great resource for meeting others in similar situations and talking through everyday judicial family life scenarios. For me personally, it has been a great way to connect with judicial families from all around Ohio.”

*Pam Harris,
Fairfield County*



“I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and get to know similarly situated and like-minded friends through the Judicial Family Network. It has been a great experience.”

*-Bill Jennings
Lucas County*



The JFN was a breath of fresh air for this spouse, who was in totally unfamiliar territory! The JFN provided practical and emotional support in ways that impacted my own professional mentoring, and attention to detail for those new to a role. There aren’t any texts on how to manage campaigning and parenting, plan a swearing-in ceremony, or what’s expected of you as a spouse of a newly elected judge. JFN filled that void for me, and in the process I formed friendships that I hope to nurture for the remainder of my life!



THE SUPREME COURT of OHIO
Advisory Committee
on the Judicial Family Network



THE SUPREME COURT of OHIO

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Greene County
- TOM ZITTER
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about the NETWORK

When a judge is appointed or elected, he or she is not the only person affected by the professional change. The transition to public life can cause changes for everyone in the family as each person adjusts to living their private life in the public eye.

Judicial family members face unique circumstances related to campaigning, ethical concerns, high visibility, security outside the courthouse, the media and raising children in the public arena, to name a few.



The Advisory Committee on the Judicial Family Network is appointed by the Chief Justice. The members represent Ohio's diversity and a variety of judicial family life experiences.

The Judicial Family Network (JFN) offers educational programs and print and online resources to the spouses, partners and families of judges. The resource contact program provides additional information and support to partners and spouses of new judges. The JFN also helps address questions related to judicial family life.

- “My spouse is a judge. Now what do I do?”
- “May the spouse of a judge participate in local political activities?”
- “Now that my partner is a judge, do I need to report gifts?”
- “How do we support our son when his friend’s father is a defendant in my wife’s court?”

additional RESOURCES

The Judicial Family Institute

The Judicial Family Institute is a national organization dedicated to providing online information and education on topics of importance to judicial family members. Visit <http://jfi.ncsconline.org/> for more information.

more INFORMATION

Members of judicial families interested in more information may contact Melissa Leonard at 614.387.9467 or Melissa.Leonard@sc.ohio.gov or visit www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Boards/OJFN/default.asp.

