



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

# Terrence O'Donnell

## *Justice*



*May 19, 2003 - Terrence O'Donnell became the 149<sup>th</sup> Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio. His current term ends on Dec. 31, 2012.*

Justice **Terrence O'Donnell** joined the Supreme Court of Ohio in 2003, and since that time has led statewide efforts to increase professionalism among lawyers and judges across Ohio. His leadership culminated in the implementation of a Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring Program that is recognized nationally as one of the finest in the United States. He regularly speaks on topics of ethics, professionalism, and appellate advocacy, and also supports the expansion and strengthening of lawyer mentoring in Ohio. Additionally, he recently participated in a national forum on professionalism and mentoring at the University of South Carolina.

Justice O'Donnell began his judicial career in 1980 on the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court—the busiest trial court in Ohio—and served there for 14 years until his election to the Eighth District Court of Appeals in 1994. He served there for eight years, and subsequently served as a visiting trial court judge in various counties throughout the state before joining the Supreme Court in 2003.

He began his legal career at the Ohio Supreme Court as a law clerk to Justice J.J.P. Corrigan in 1971, and then clerked for Judges John V. Corrigan and John M. Manos on the Eighth District Court of Appeals. Before beginning his judicial service, he practiced law with the firm of Marshman, Snyder & Corrigan in Cleveland for six years.

A former school teacher, Justice O'Donnell is a founding member and past president of the Legal Eagles — a law fraternity for alumni of St. Edward High School in Lakewood, and a frequent lecturer at its year-end seminar. He also is a member of the Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellows Class of 2005, a past member of the board of trustees of Magnificat High School, and the board of trustees of the Lawyers Guild of the Diocese of Cleveland.

Justice O'Donnell also has served as chairman of the Ohio Legal Rights Service Commission, which oversees the protection and advocacy of the developmentally disabled and mentally ill statewide. He is a past member of the board of trustees of Our Lady of the Wayside, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of the mentally and physically challenged where his brother, John, lived for ten years until he died in 2011.

Justice O'Donnell has been honored by every school and university he attended: St. Edward High School presented him with its Alumnus of the Year Award in 2005, Kent State University recognized him as an outstanding graduate of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Cleveland State University awarded him its Distinguished Alumni Award. In addition, the University of Akron School of Law conferred an honorary doctor of law degree when he presented the commencement address in 2005. He also is a 2006 recipient of the Jurisprudence Award from the American ORT Cleveland Chapter, and he became a member of the 2011 Irish Legal 100, a group of prominent Irish lawyers and judges selected from across the United States.

Justice O'Donnell currently resides in Rocky River with his wife, Mary Beth. The couple has four adult children—Terrence, Michael, Colleen, and Nora, and enjoy spending time with their six grandchildren, Terrence, Charlie, Claire, Emmett, Kevin, and Molly.

## **PERSONAL**

Born: 1946 in Cleveland

Wife: Mary Beth

Children: Terrence, Michael, Colleen and Nora

Member: St. Bernadette Parish, Westlake

## **EDUCATION**

Juris Doctor, Cleveland State University - 1971

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Kent State University - 1968

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio, May 19, 2003 to present

Visiting Judge, counties throughout Ohio, February 2003 to May 2003

Judge, 8th District Court of Appeals, 1995 to February 2003

Judge, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, 1980, 1982 to 1994

Associated with the firm of Marshman, Snyder & Corrigan, 1974 to 1980

Director, Paralegal Education Program, David M. Myers College, 1974 to 1976

Law Clerk, Judge John M. Manos and Judge John V. Corrigan, 8<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals, 1972 to 1974

Law Clerk, Justice J.J.P. Corrigan, Supreme Court of Ohio, 1971 to 1972

Admitted to the Bar of the State of Ohio by examination, 1971

Teacher, grades 7 and 8, St. Brendan School, North Olmsted, 1970, 1971

Instructor, speech and debate, Cuyahoga Community College, 1968 to 1970

Instructor, C.P.A. Business Law Review, Cleveland State University, 1976 to 1978

## **ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PROFESSION**

Officer, Catholic Lawyer's Guild of Cleveland

Member, Ohio State Bar Association

Member, 2005 Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellows Class

Lecturer, Professionalism, Ethics

Promoter, Statewide Mentoring Program

Member, Irish Legal 100

## **PAST ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PROFESSION**

Chairman, Ohio Legal Rights Service Commission

Chairman, Law Related Education Committee, Cleveland Bar Association

Member, Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, Supreme Court of Ohio

Member, Court Statistical Reporting Committee, Supreme Court of Ohio

President, Legal Eagles, St. Edward High School legal fraternity

Member, Public Understanding of the Law, Ohio State Bar Association

## **PAST COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

Member, Board of Directors, Our Lady of the Wayside  
Member, Board of Trustees, Magnificat High School, Rocky River  
Executive Director, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Cleveland  
President, Fathers' Club, Magnificat High School, Rocky River  
Coach, Little League baseball, Rocky River  
Instructor, Public School Religion program, St. Bernadette Church, North Olmsted

## **AWARDS**

2011 - Selected as a member of the Irish Legal 100, leading Irish lawyers and judges in the United States  
2006 - Distinguished Alumni Award - Cleveland State University  
2006 - ORT Jurisprudence Award  
2006 - Honorary Doctors Degree - University of Akron School of Law  
2005 - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the College of Arts and Sciences, Kent State University;  
Outstanding Graduate  
2004 - Alumnus of the Year, St. Edward High School  
2003 - Public Official of the Year, Federation of German-American Societies of Greater Cleveland  
2003 - American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin - Central Ohio  
2003 - American Nationalities Movement - Captive Nations Commemoration Program,  
Justice Award  
1989-1998 - President's Award, Cleveland Bar Association, Law Related Education Committee,  
Student Essay Contest



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