

THE SUPREME COURT of OHIO

JUDICIAL *family* NETWORK

THE JUDICIAL FAMILY NETWORK (JFN) offers educational programs and print and online resources to the spouses, partners, and families of judges. JFN helps address questions related to judicial family life:

My spouse is a judge, do I need to report gifts that I receive?

Our friend is running for public office, can I put her campaign sign in our yard?

How do we support our son when his friend's father is a defendant in my wife's court?

My husband worked in private practice until his election, how does his new pension program work?

Ohio's Judicial Family Network (JFN) was started by Mary Moyer, wife of the late Chief Justice Thomas Moyer. While campaigning with her husband, Mrs. Moyer met men and women across the state who shared the unique challenges of having a judge in the family. In 2000, Mrs. Moyer helped form a steering committee, which implemented a mission statement and programming which continues to support Ohio's judicial families to this day.

The Advisory Committee on the JFN provides information and education on topics of concern and importance to judicial households and their extended family members. The committee provides opportunities for spouses and partners of judges to meet and interact with one another to foster informal networks of support and communication. Among current areas of interest to judicial families are social media and online presence, trauma-informed care, home and travel security, ethics guidelines, judicial elections, and quality of life issues.

Support

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 require adjustments for everyone in the family as each person adapts to living their private life in the public eye. JFN connects family members to resources and guidance from other judicial families that have navigated the same challenges. You do not walk alone.

Events

The JFN typically hosts programs in December and May in conjunction with "New Judge Orientation." Additionally, quarterly Zoom programs are offered on a wide array of topics. As of December 2021, CLE will be offered at programs where applicable.

Starting Out

JFN programs will put you in touch with the human resources professionals to help guide you through changes to your health insurance coverage, pension options and other details of public employment. Additionally, the network offers step—by step insight about swearing-in activities.

Security

JFN can help you identify practical measures you can take to protect your family's safety and privacy away from the courthouse.

Online Presence

Can "liking" a post or tweeting a news article cause problems for the judge in your family? The consequences of Internet security for public officials and their families have never been more dire or easy to stumble into. Learn how to understand your digital footprint, smart phone technology, location applications, RFID's, doxing and commonly and uncommonly used social networking sites as well as ways to protect yourself and family members.



The Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on the Judicial Family Network

Tim Gorman (Chair)
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Vallie Bowman-English (Vice Chair)
LUCAS COUNTY

Rick Brunner
SUPREME COURT

Bill Jennings
LUCAS COUNTY

Susan Burchfield
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DELAWARE COUNTY

Cleora Griffith
SECOND DISTRICT

Cheryl Sieve
HAMILTON COUNTY

Sharon Hickson
MORROW COUNTY

Craig Smith
PORTAGE COUNTY

Sue Strausbaugh
DEFIANCE COUNTY

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.

More Information

Members of judicial families interested in more information and how to attend programs may contact:

Dean Hogan
614.387.9450 • Dean.Hogan@sc.ohio.gov

Ethics Guide

The Code of Judicial Conduct impacts a judge's ability to accept gifts, engage in political action and participate in community and business activities. While spouses and family members are not subject to the Code, on a practical level, family and social life often intersects with the judge's ethical duties. JFN offers a guide and programs to help families avoid potential pitfalls: sc.ohio.gov/Boards/OJFN/resources/ethicsarticle.pdf.

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 judicialfamilyinstitute.org.

“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!”