

## FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

**NEWTON CARGILL** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Howard University and then worked in the financial-planning industry for 15 years before obtaining his law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Following admission to the bar in 2001, Mr. Cargill served as a public defender with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland's then Criminal Division.

Mr. Cargill first joined the court in 2003, where he has been privileged to serve as a Judicial Attorney for three judges, namely: Honorable Patricia Ann Blackmon, Honorable Mary Eileen Kilbane, and currently the Honorable Emanuella D. Groves. Additionally, in between his judicial clerkships, Mr. Cargill served as Manager of three divisions of the Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts and as the Court Administrator of the Cleveland Municipal Court's Housing Division. Mr. Cargill is also a trained mediator.

**MELISSA A. GHRIST** is an associate at the appellate law firm Flowers & Grube, where she represents clients in both civil and criminal appeals across Ohio and in federal courts. Her writing and oral advocacy are guided by her previous experiences as a judicial attorney at the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals and as a business litigation associate at Thompson Hine LLP. Melissa studied anthropology as an undergraduate at The Ohio State University and earned her J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where she is currently serving as an adjunct professor teaching appellate practice.

**JACOB DICUS** received Bachelors of Science degrees in computer engineering from the University of Dayton and biology, magna cum laude, from the Ohio State University. He obtained his law degree, with high distinction, from Ohio Northern University, Pettit College of Law. He has been with the court since 2009. Mr. Dicus started as a Judicial Attorney for the Honorable Frank D. Celebrezze, III, until he was assigned to his present position as a Staff Attorney in 2017.

**TONI Q. FARKAS** joined the Eighth District Court of Appeals in 2012. She received her B.A. from Cornell University and graduated summa cum laude from Cornell Law School in 1996. Toni served as a judicial attorney for the Honorable Kenneth Rocco from 2012-2014 and currently serves as a judicial attorney for the Honorable Eileen A. Gallagher.

Prior to joining the court, Toni was an associate at Thompson Hine L.L.P. and a partner at Frantz Ward L.L.P., where her practice focused on product liability

defense, toxic tort litigation, and commercial disputes. She also previously worked in-house as senior counsel for Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc.

Toni was certified as an appellate law specialist by the Ohio State Bar Association in 2018.

**JUDGE LISA B. FORBES** was elected to the Eighth District Court of Appeals on November 3, 2020. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Forbes was a partner in the Cleveland office of the law firm Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP where she practiced in the area of complex litigation. As a litigator, Judge Forbes represented clients in state and federal trial and appellate courts throughout Ohio for 27 years.

Throughout her career, Judge Forbes has been an active and engaged member of the Northeast Ohio community including serving on the boards of the Centers for Families and Children and Circle Health for over a decade. She is currently a vice chair of both boards and chair of the Quality Improvement, Risk and Program committees. In addition, while practicing, she regularly wrote and presented on developments in and application of the law.

Judge Forbes graduated *summa cum laude* from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1992. She served first as an associate editor on the law review and then as Executive Notes Editor. Judge Forbes majored in public policy at Cornell University, graduating in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Judge Forbes is excited to bring her passion for and love of the law to the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

**ALEX R. FRONDORF** is an experienced labor and employment law litigator and advisor. Alex devotes his practice to a broad range of labor and employment related matters, including: Discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), and class and collective actions. Alex represents a diverse group of clients across different industries, including: Healthcare, including home healthcare, manufacturing, and retail.

Prior to joining Littler Mendelson, Alex served as a law clerk to the Honorable Ann Aldrich and the Honorable Kathleen M. O'Malley in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. In law school, he was managing editor of the Saint Louis University Law Journal. He is also an adjunct professor at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, where he teaches courses on the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and scholarly writing, and at Bowling Green State University, where he teaches a course on health care law.

**ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE SEAN C. GALLAGHER** was elected to the Ohio Court of Appeals on November 5, 2002. Prior to his election he served as a judge in the Cleveland Municipal Court from 1997 to 2002. Judge Gallagher has forty years of direct 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 in the 1970s while home on break from Ohio University.

Judge Gallagher was a felony prosecutor in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s office from 1991-1997. He served three years in the specialized “while collar” Economic Crime Unit of that office. In the 1970s, he also worked with underprivileged children at the Metzenbaum Children’s Center in Cleveland and with incarcerated youth at the Youth Development Center in Hudson, Ohio. He served four years as a Probation Officer in Cuyahoga County and was Common Pleas Court Bailiff for six years to Donald C. Nugent, now a Federal Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Judge Gallagher served as Chairperson of the Supreme Court of Ohio’s Commission on the Rules of Practice and Procedure for Ohio Courts (2009-2010). He also serves on the Ohio Judicial Conference Criminal Law and Procedure Committee. He has been an instructor with the Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College for over twenty years. He also has served as an instructor with the American Bar Association, the Ohio Highway Patrol, the Cleveland Police Academy, and the Cleveland Browns. Lastly, he served as president of the Northern Ohio Municipal Judges Association in 2001-2002.

Judge Gallagher was named “Legal Eagle - Man of the Year” for St. Edward High School in 2005. He received the “President’s Award” for service with the Cuyahoga County Bar Association in 2006 and was named one of the Outstanding Alumni for Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 2007. In 2010 he received a “Champion of Justice Award” from the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys for his work in passing the new “open discovery” Criminal Rule 16.

Judge Gallagher received his B.A. degree from Ohio University and his J.D. degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He is a graduate of (Lakewood) St. Edward High School. In addition to Ohio, Judge Gallagher is a member of the bar in Arizona. He is married, and he and his wife are the proud parents of one son. He holds dual citizenship in both the United States and the Republic of Ireland.

**MELISSA A. GHRIST** is an associate at the appellate law firm Flowers & Grube, where she represents clients in both civil and criminal appeals across Ohio and in federal courts. Her writing and oral advocacy are guided by her previous experiences as a judicial attorney at the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals and as a business litigation associate at Thompson Hine LLP. Melissa studied anthropology as an undergraduate at The Ohio State University and earned her

J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where she is currently serving as an adjunct professor teaching appellate practice.

**SCOTT R. MOTE** is Executive Director of the Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (OLAP), an Ohio nonprofit corporation incorporated in 1991, and granted IRC 501(c)(3) status by the IRS in 1992. A recovering alcoholic since January 7, 1985, Scott began volunteering with the Ohio State Bar Association's (OSBA) Lawyers Assistance Committee (LAC) in September 1985. He has been involved with OLAP for over 36 years, serving as OLAP's first Associate Director beginning in 1995, and becoming Executive Director in March 1999.

**JIM MCGLONE** joined the court in 2011. He received his J.D. from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 2006. Mr. McGlone served the Honorable Eileen A. Gallagher as a staff attorney at the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas from 2007 to 2011 and as a judicial attorney at the Eighth District Court of Appeals from 2011 to 2018. Mr. McGlone became the en banc staff attorney for the court in January of 2019. Mr. McGlone was certified as an appellate law specialist by the Ohio State Bar Association in 2019.

**ERIN M. O'TOOLE** serves as the Court Administrator and Magistrate for the Eighth District Court of Appeals. Ms. O'Toole joined the Court in 2001 and served as a judicial attorney, staff attorney, and the Deputy Court Administrator before receiving the promotion to her current position in 2017. She became a certified court manager in 2019 after completing the three-year course offered by the National Center for State Courts.

Ms. O'Toole began her legal career at the County Public Defender's Office. She then practiced as a litigator in complex civil matters at a reputable mid-sized law firm where she gained experience in municipal, state and federal courts.

Ms. O'Toole is licensed to practice in federal court, as well as Ohio and Florida state courts. She is a member of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and its Court Rules Committee and a life member of the Judicial Conference of the Eighth Judicial District. Ms. O'Toole is a board member for the Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio and a Trustee of the Irish American Archives Society.

**DAVID F. PARCHEM** has been with the court since 1990 as a Staff Attorney. He received his B.A., summa cum laude, and J.D. from the University of Notre Dame.

Following admission to the Bar in 1980, he was Law Clerk for District Court Judge John M. Manos, associate with the firm of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, associate with the firm of Ward, Marein and Gillette and in private practice.

**ANDREW S. POLLIS** is a professor of law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. He is the Director, Appellate Litigation Clinic, Milton and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic, School of Law. Pollis joined the faculty in 2008 as a Visiting Assistant Professor and was appointed as an Assistant Professor effective July 2011. He became an Associate Professor in July 2014 and a Professor in July 2016.

Pollis directs an Appellate Litigation Clinic in the Milton and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic, hearkening back to his roots as a law student at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. His students have collected an impressive string of appellate successes, winning the vast majority of cases they have handled in the last few years. One of those cases—involving the standard for withdrawing a guilty plea—reached the Supreme Court of Ohio, where a former student argued it in April 2022. Pollis has also taught the Civil Litigation Clinic where, in 2011, he supervised two students who won a \$1.1 million verdict in a jury trial. In addition to his clinical teaching, Pollis also teaches Evidence, coordinates the Appellate Practice program, and serves as a faculty advisor to moot-court teams.

**ANDREW N. RODAK** joined the court in 1987. He received his B.A. from Cleveland State University, and J.D. from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

Following admission to the Bar, he was a Law Clerk for Common Pleas Court Judges Daniel O. Corrigan and David T. Matia, Law Clerk for Appellate Judge David T. Matia and, in 1994, was assigned his present position as a Staff Attorney.

**JUDGE MICHELLE J. SHEEHAN** was elected to the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals on November 6, 2018.

Prior to being elected to the court of appeals, Judge Sheehan was a shareholder at a large litigation firm. She litigated cases in both state and federal courts on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants for over 25 years. She is one of 28 attorneys throughout the state of Ohio who is a certified appellate specialist by the Ohio State Bar Association. She has represented clients in appellate matters before the Ohio Supreme Court, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and almost every appellate district in the state of Ohio.

Judge Sheehan has served in various leadership roles within the community. She is a former President of the Ohio Women's Bar Association and has held various

leadership roles in local organizations including the CMBA, YWCA, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, and Rocky River Civil Service Commission, amongst others.

Judge Sheehan received her bachelor's degree from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and her Juris Doctor degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, where she met her husband, the Honorable Brendan J. Sheehan. She is also a member of the Florida Bar.