GEAUGA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Candidate:

This questionnaire seeks detailed information from candidates for judicial office, including incumbents seeking re-election. Only a copy of the completed questionnaire will be included in the correspondence to our members when they receive their bar poll ballot.

Responding to these questions will require significant time and effort on your part. We believe the information requested will help our members give the public thoughtful and accurate ratings of judicial candidates. Your responses are an opportunity to demonstrate you are or would be the kind of excellent judge we all want for our clients and our community. We appreciate your time, and your true, honest, and candid answers. Do not, however, disclose information you are required to keep confidential, or that is subject to attorney-client privilege, attorney work product, or any other privileges or protections.

Please answer all applicable questions and sign the jurat.

GENERAL

1. Name: **Jennifer Brunner**

2. a. City and county of residence: **Alliance (Stark County) / Columbus (Franklin County)**

   b. How long have you lived in Ohio? **69 years**

   c. How long have you lived in the jurisdiction in which you seek office? **69 years**

3. Business address: **1480 Dublin Road**

   City: **Columbus** State: **OH** Zip: **43215**

   Business Phone: **(614) 487-3526**

4. Place and date of birth: **Springfield, Ohio; February 5, 1957**

5. Court for which you are a candidate: **Ohio Supreme Court**

6. Commencement of term: **January 1, 2027**

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE EDUCATION

7. School Name:	Years: Attended:	Degree Received:	Honors (if any):
Miami University	**1975-1978**	**B.S. Sociology-Gerontology, Cum Laude**	
Capital University Law School	**1979-1982**	**J.D. Law (1983), Order of the Curia**	

WORK HISTORY AND PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS:

8. State your legal work history since graduating law school in chronological order, listing each employer, the employer's address, your position, and the time period you were so employed. Also include the same information for any period of time during which you were self-employed. **In the alternative, you may attach a résumé if it contains all of the requested information**, or if you supplement any missing information in your response here.

Dates: Position: Employer Name and City, State:

Please see attached resume. Thank you

9. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and your current status as a bar member. Identify any period during which you were not in good standing in each bar, and the reason. Please also list the date of your admission to all courts and administrative bodies having special requirements to which you have been admitted to practice, your current status and the dates and reason for any period during which you were not in good standing.

- **Admitted to the practice of law in Ohio, May 1983**
- **Admitted to U.S. District Court, S.D.E.D., 1983 A**
- **Admitted to U.S. District Court S.D.N.D., 1983**
- **Admitted to U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, 1983**

10. (a) Are you currently serving as a judge or magistrate? **YES**

(b) Are you currently engaged in the practice of law? **NO**

(c) If you are NOT currently engaged in either the practice of law or serving as a judge or magistrate,

(1) Make sure to complete Question 23 for your most recent six years of legal practice.

(2) Describe how your current work is relevant to your performance in the judicial office you seek.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

11. List any fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

Please see attached resume. Thank you.

BAR ASSOCIATION AND OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

12. List all professional, business, fraternal, sororal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Please include bar associations, clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, or conferences. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any offices you held, and/or your noteworthy accomplishments in connection with the organization.

Please see attached resume. Thank you.

PUBLIC OFFICE

13. List chronologically any elected or appointed public offices you have held or sought, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service, and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual or entity that appointed you.

ELECTED / SOUGHT:

- **2010 – candidate for Democratic nomination to United States Senate**
- **2006 – candidate for and elected to office of Ohio Secretary of State**

APPOINTED:

- **Former Member, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist licensing board, appointed by Ohio governor, (2013 to 2014)**

- **Former Member, Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission, appointed by Ohio governor, (2011 to 2012)**
- **Former Member, Central Ohio Transit Authority (public transit bus system operating board), appointed by Mayor of Columbus, (2013 to 2014)**
- **Former Member, Franklin County Board of Elections (1997)**
- **Former Member, Ohio Student Loan Commission, appointed by Ohio governor (1991)**

LAW PRACTICE

Answer each part separately. FOR JUDGES WHO WILL, AS OF JANUARY 2022, HAVE *COMPLETED* AT LEAST ONE *FULL* TERM OF SERVICE, THIS QUESTION IS OPTIONAL.

14. For your current or most recent law practice, and every distinctive period of practice in the past, whether or not with a different office, describe:

(a) the general character of your law practice;

(b) your typical clients and or matters, and the legal areas, if any, on which you have focused.

(c) The percentage of your practice in litigation and whether you appear in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all.

(d) The percentage of your practice in: federal courts _____%; state courts of record _____%; other courts _____%; and administrative agencies _____%.

(e) The percentage of your practice in: civil proceedings _____%; and criminal proceedings _____%.

15. Estimate the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative-law judges, you have tried to verdict, judgment, or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel, and

What percentage or numbers of these trials were: jury % and non-jury %.

16. How many cases have you appeared as counsel of record in an Ohio County Court of Common Pleas?

17. Roughly how many physical appearances have you made in the Geauga County Court of Common Please?

18. Describe your practice, if any, before state and federal intermediate courts of appeals, the Ohio Supreme Court or the U.S. Supreme Court.

OTHER LAW RELATED ACTIVITIES

19. Pro Bono Work. The Statements on Professionalism adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the Court's September 20, 2007 Statement Regarding Provision of Pro Bono Legal Services by Ohio Lawyers encourage Ohio lawyers to help provide the pro bono representation that is necessary to make our system of justice available to all. Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, including the types of matters handled, when you did this work and an estimate of the time you devote to pro bono work each year.

- **Pro bono legal work for Clintonville Resource Center clients in Columbus, Ohio 2014**
- **Pro bono legal work for Dress For Success Columbus in 2012**
- **Pro bono work for Franklin County Democratic Party 1995 - 2000**

20. Teaching. Describe your teaching experience, if any, including school or sponsoring institution, the years you taught the course, and the subject matter. If you have a syllabus for any such course, please attach it.

- **Tiffin University, Masters in Law Enforcement program – Law and Ethics for Law Enforcement Officers, 2004**
- **Tiffin University, undergraduate class in Criminal Constitutional Law - 2004**

21. Other. Please describe any other significant professional activity you wish to call to our attention. This may include service on Ohio Supreme Court Boards, Commissions, or Task Forces; your involvement in any professional or community organizations; and the like.

Please see attached resume. Thank you.

PAST CONDUCT

22. Have you ever been disciplined for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, or by the disciplinary authority for any profession in which you also hold a license? YES_____ NO **X**_____. If so, please give the particulars including the year, complainant, nature of complaint, findings, and sanction, and provide a copy of relevant opinions and orders.

GOALS AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

23. Why do you aspire to be a judge?

Public service in promoting, maintaining and protecting the rule of law in a democracy is a high calling and I wish to serve in this way.

24. What changes, if any, would you make if elected to the Bench? If you are an incumbent seeking re-election, what specifically would you change as a judge during your next term of office if elected once again to the Bench? Incumbents should specify any tools or techniques that he or she has used to improve the efficiency of the docket and trial calendar.

I'm running for reelection for Associate Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, because justice matters for every Ohioan. Steady and principled leadership of the state's highest court is essential to helping Ohioans realize justice in their everyday lives. The state's constitution is the voice of its people. The Ohio Supreme Court is the constitution's caretaker, a guardian to ensure people and their rights are protected. As a current Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, I participate in deciding which cases the court reviews and in helping set the course for the rule of law in our state. Not all cases are accepted by the state's highest court. This is because the constitution requires us to determine the law for matters of great and general public interest. Ohio is a very diverse state with deep rural roots, storied urban communities and countless small and middle-sized towns and cities. I take seriously my responsibility as one of seven people elected to do justice for all the people of Ohio. I am grateful for what I've learned from Ohioans in my many years of service to them, working at three levels of the state's courts and as Ohio's first female secretary of state.

25. Please identify the greatest issue(s) the judiciary, or the court on which you wish to serve, faces today.

The greatest obstacle to justice is access to justice. A court's decision to refer a case to a magistrate may get it decided sooner, but not always to the satisfaction of litigants. It becomes more costly to oppose the magistrate's decision, because a transcript must be made and paid for by the litigant. If the litigant fails to do that, only legal and not factual issues may be reviewed by a court of appeals. I support greater public education about the courts, pro bono (free service), including clinics for matters such as preparing a will, understanding domestic relations issues such as dissolution, divorce, and child custody issues. A greater understanding of mental health and drug abuse would also help the public understand its prevalence in the criminal justice system.

26. Please explain how your background demonstrates the level of community engagement and understanding appropriate to the judicial office you are seeking.

My general judicial philosophy is to understand and carry out the role of the judiciary in upholding and protecting the rule of law, recognizing its importance to democracy. I work hard to demonstrate that my fealty in public service is to all persons, regardless of their stations in life. I tend to look at the equities of a situation, and at the fairness of case law, especially to determine if the law may be hurting someone. I work to change what I can, accepting what I cannot change, without giving up the opportunity to revisit the question as the law changes. I see myself as a public servant who happens to be a judge. Thus, I will work a little harder, study a little longer and search for ways for the law to work better for all people in the spirit of fairness, equality and respect for all.

27. Please state any other information you regard as relevant to your candidacy.

N/A

FOR TRIAL COURT CANDIDATES

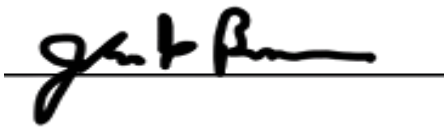
28. Would you conduct telephonic or video court appearance (e.g. pre-trials, case management conferences, etc.) for criminal and civil matters? **N/A**

29. Both a criminal trial and civil trial are scheduled on the same date. All parties are ready to proceed. What factors will you consider when determining which matter will go forward and why? **N/A**

30. How do you or will you manage your docket to ensure dispositive motions are heard in a timely manner so parties do not incur the time and expense of preparing for a trial that ultimately may not proceed? Would you be amenable to an automatic continuance of a trial date when a dispositive motion has not been ruled upon by a certain number of days in advance of trial? **N/A**

JURAT

Jennifer Brunner, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that the information in the above questionnaire is true.



Signature of Candidate Date: 9/13/2026