I am committed to the equal administration of Justice through public service and have dedicated my professional career to that goal.

As a judge presently sitting on the Eleventh District Court of Appeals of the State of Ohio, I serve over 788,000 residents in Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Trumbull counties. In conjunction with my colleagues, I review all assigned appeals filed from those counties covering all areas of law. For the vast majority of litigants, the Eleventh District Court of Appeals represents the last stop for redress of their legal matters.

As a prosecutor, I protected the public in pursuing charges that appropriately and accurately reflected the alleged conduct after weighing the relevant facts and the law. I fairly applied state and federal laws with seasoned, thoughtful discretion in every matter I handled, regardless of the level of complexity of each case. With this balanced approach, I earned the respect of the bench and defense bar based more on the manner in which I fairly prosecuted cases rather than being undefeated at trial as an Assistant United States Attorney.

Also, as President of City Council for the City of Willowick, I served the public through the timely and orderly presentation of municipal legislation, including the City's annual budget.

OVERVIEW

State of Ohio – Appellate Judge

Ohio Governor Michael DeWine appointed me to serve as a judge on the Eleventh District Court of Appeals of Ohio in June 2023. In this role, I review all assigned cases appealed from the trial courts of the five counties within the district. These cases encompass the entire spectrum of legal subject matters, including the areas of civil, criminal, juvenile, domestic relations, and probate. I also preside over original actions filed with the Court, including writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, procedendo, prohibition, and quo warranto.

United States Department of Justice

Over sixteen (16) years in the Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. My last assignment was Senior Litigation Counsel, in which capacity, I was responsible for the intake and management of federal tax matters within the office. As Supervisor of the Violent Crimes Unit involving high-volume intake of federal violent crime matters, I approved the resolution of cases and supervised Assistant U.S. Attorneys. I also served as a first-chair Assistant U.S. Attorney in the White Collar Crimes Unit for over a decade, concentrating on all types of fraud matters, public corruption cases, and federal tax matters.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

State of Ohio Warren, Ohio
Eleventh District Court of Appeals

Judge June 2023 - Present

Serve as one of five judges reviewing appeals arising from the trial courts of Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Trumbull counties covering all subject matters in the law. Primary responsibilities include drafting assigned opinions for the Court and voting as a panel member. I also serve as Vice Chair of the Court's Security Committee and speak at various community events. In December 2024, elected as the Court's Presiding Judge for 2025. Sat by assignment of the Supreme Court of Ohio as a Visiting Judge on *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to R.C. 4928.143, in the Form of an Electric Security Plan,* 2025-Ohio-3034, 2025 WL 2456670, in June 2025.

United States Department of Justice Cleveland, Ohio
Office of the United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio

Senior Litigation Counsel – Tax Aug. 2022 – May 2023
Supervisory Assistant United States Attorney Oct. 2017 – Aug. 2022
Assistant United States Attorney Oct. 2006 – Sept. 2017

- *Senior Litigation Counsel – Tax*: Supervised and managed the intake of tax matters referred from the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. Reviewed and approved proposed indictments charging tax violation prior to presentation to Grand Jury. Provided training to all Assistant U.S. Attorneys regarding the prosecution of tax cases. Collaborated with other Criminal Division Senior Litigation Counsel for mentoring and training programs for newer Assistant U.S. Attorneys in all phases of the prosecution process.

- *Supervisor – Violent Crimes Unit*: Managed other Assistant U.S. Attorneys in the investigation and prosecution of federal violent crimes including: car-jackings; bank robberies; Hobbs Act robberies; kidnapping; and use of firearms to facilitate violent crime and federal drug trafficking offenses. Responsibilities included the initial review and intake of federal violent crime cases for assignment within the United States Attorney's Office and coordinated with federal and local law enforcement agencies to focus resources on investigating and prosecuting individuals with a history of violent offenses.

- First chair responsibilities in jury trials for the prosecution of securities fraud, mail fraud, bank fraud, federal tax violations, money laundering; bribery, labor charges, car-jacking, and Hobbs Act violations investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Labor-Office of Inspector General, U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. Successfully defended trial convictions on appeal appearing before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

- Lead Counsel on a multi-defendant investment fraud jury trial involving mail fraud, wire fraud, securities fraud and tax evasion. The defendants were convicted following a seven-

week jury trial where the government presented over 50 witnesses and 20,000 pages of exhibits. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed their convictions and sentences. (*United States v. Lombardo*, 582 Fed. Appx. 601 (6th Cir. Sept. 19, 2014)).

- Lead Counsel on a multi-defendant mortgage fraud jury trial charging bank fraud conspiracy arising from a Panama City, Florida development project. All defendants were convicted on all counts after a four-week jury trial presented in Akron, Ohio. (*United States v. Osborne*, 2015 WL 2238783 (N.D.O.H. May 12, 2015)).

- Co-Counsel on the first jury trial of the Cuyahoga County Public Corruption cases. MetroHealth Project Manager convicted of bribery conspiracy, Hobbs Act conspiracy, tax charges and mail fraud conspiracy after a three-week jury trial. (*United States v. Greco*, 734 F.3d 441 (6th Cir. 2013)).

- Lead counsel on federal public corruption prosecution involving a Cleveland Police Officer trafficking in kilograms of cocaine arising from a Title III wire-tap investigation with the FBI. (*United States v. Sarlog*, 422 Fed.Appx. 399 (6th Cir. Jan. 7, 2011)).

- Co-Counsel of successful prosecution of the Tremont car-jacking case involving a Summer 2015 spree of violent incidents where defendants stole vehicles from their owners at gun point to use in a feud among the Heartless Felons street gang in Cleveland. (*United States v. Kenneth Jackson, et al.*, 918 F.3d 467 (6th Cir. 2019)).

- Appointed Special Attorney by the Executive Office of United States Attorneys to serve as conflict counsel involving public corruption investigations, white collar matters and threats to Assistant United States Attorneys in the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, Michigan.

SELECT AWARDS AND HONORS

- The Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, October 2013
  (Prosecution of Cuyahoga County Corruption Cases)

- The United States Attorney's Advocate of the Month, July 2014 and July 2016

- IRS Criminal Investigation-Excellence Award, November 2013

- Bronze Medal for Commendable Service – United States Environmental Protection Agency (Modern Construction / Cleveland Housing Network Case), October 2017

- Special Act Awards, April 2008, September 2011, August 2017, May 2018 and April 2021

- Member of the Spring 2016 Merit Selection Panel for United States Magistrate Judges

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

City of Willowick Willowick, Ohio
President of City Council Jan. 2013 to May 2023
Councilman, Ward 3 Jul. 2005 to Jan. 2013

- As President of City Council, duties included preparing agendas, presiding over bi-monthly City Council meetings, representing the entire City as the sole at-large member of Council and presenting legislation, including an annual budget of over $20,000,000.

- Successfully ran as a candidate for election as a Ward 3 Councilman or President of City Council in July 2005; November 2005; November 2007; November 2011; November 2015; and November 2019.

FOUNDATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lake County Prosecutor's Office Painesville, Ohio
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jan. 2001 to Sept. 2006

- Primary area of practice was in the preparation of felony criminal matters for jury trials and hearings. Lead counsel in over forty-five (45) criminal felony jury trials and numerous civil and criminal hearings on behalf of the State of Ohio.

- First Chair responsibilities in the prosecution of complex criminal matters, specializing in white-collar crime, involving R.I.C.O., money laundering, gaming statutes, securities violations, high-asset criminal forfeitures of real and personal property, contraband seizures, bank account seizures, and auctioning of forfeited assets. Trial experience also includes first chair duties in prosecutions of violent crimes including rape, aggravated vehicular homicide and attempted murder.

Kaufman & Cumberland Co., L.P.A. Cleveland, Ohio
Associate Dec. 1998 to Jan. 2001

- Primary area of practice in complex civil litigation involving multiple issues and multiple parties with significant experience in pleading, motion, and deposition practice.

- First Chair responsibilities in bench trials before common pleas courts, municipal courts, and arbitration panels in matters related to commercial construction and commercial leases.

Lake County Court of Common Pleas Painesville, Ohio
Judicial Law Clerk to Honorable Paul H. Mitrovich Aug. 1996 to Dec. 1998

- Primary responsibility of managing the civil docket of a Common Pleas Court, reviewing pending motions, and conducting legal research in the preparation of judgment entries and orders.

EDUCATION

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University — Cleveland, Ohio
Top third of class — Juris Doctor, May 1996

- Moot Court Board of Governors, National Moot Court Competition Team and Region IV Awards for Best Ohio Team (1995); and Best Respondent's Brief, Semi-Finalist Team.

- Recipient of Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association Outstanding Brief Writing Award (1995)

Cleveland State University — Cleveland, Ohio
Philosophy — Master of Arts, June 1993
Certificate of Advanced Studies in Bioethics

Cleveland State University — Cleveland, Ohio
Psychology Major — Bachelor of Arts, June 1990

St. Ignatius High School — Cleveland, Ohio
Graduated with honors
June 1986

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Trumbull County Bar Associations
- Lake County Blue Coats, Board Member
- Member, Federalist Society

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Seminar on Ohio's R.I.C.O. & Money Laundering Statues, Task Force on Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs sponsored by the Eastlake Police Department - April 2003, Eastlake, Ohio

Forensic Pathology and Criminal Prosecutions, Guest Lecturer for the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, 2006-2012

Tax Procedure, Penalties and Crimes, Guest Lecturer for the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University, 2014, 2016, and 2018

Tremont Car-Jacking Case, Co-Presenter for the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators International Conference, August 2018, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Tremont Car-Jacking Case: A Case Study, Co-Presenter for the Ohio Attorney General's Law Enforcement Conference, October 2018, Columbus, Ohio

Advanced Appellate Advocacy Seminar - Panelist, A Panel Discussion with Ohio's Newest Appellate Judges, November 2023, Cleveland, Ohio, Case Western Reserve University Law School

Appellate Practice: 11th Dist. Court of Appeals Primer, 36th Annual CLE Update sponsored by Carver Financial, December 2023, The Everly, Mentor, Ohio

Meeting the Judges: 11th District Court of Appeals with Judge Eugene A. Lucci sponsored by the Lake County Bar Association, March 2024, Lake County Court House, Painesville, Ohio

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

- State of Ohio, Ohio Registration No. 0066590 (November 19, 1996)
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio (1996)
- Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals (2006)