

In The Spotlight with: Judge Eve Belfance of the Ninth District Court of Appeals

By Kate Feeks

In October watch for the next episode of *Law Talk*, hosted by John Celebrezze. This episode features the Honorable Judge Eve Belfance of the Ninth District Court of Appeals. This show can be viewed on Wadsworth Cable (WCTV) Public Access, Channel 15, Brunswick Area Television (BAT) Public Access, Channel 21, and Armstrong Cable Access, Channel 37.

Judge Eve Belfance, a native of Akron, is currently a sitting judge on the Ninth District Court of Appeals which serves Medina, Summit, Wayne and Lorain Counties. “An appellate judge is much like a referee in sports” Belfance said. “We review a trial in detail and decide how to make a call.”

An appellate court has the authority to review decisions made by lower courts when a non-prevailing party feels their case has not been judged fairly. Appellate judges review all the records of events that happened in trials and then hand down decisions. The highest state appellate court is the Ohio Supreme Court. At that court, which is one step above the Ninth District, is where the state appeals process ends.

Judge Belfance always knew she was destined to serve the public. She finds it very gratifying to help those in need. She realized early on while working as an attorney that she would make a good judge. “I knew I was well suited to do this kind of work” Belfance said.

Judge Belfance earned her undergraduate degree from Yale University in 1984. In 1990, she graduated *cum laude* from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where she served as an associate editor of the law review. Judge Belfance began her legal career at the firm of Calfee, Halter & Griswold in Cleveland in 1998, and later she was selected to serve as a federal judicial attorney in Washington, D.C. Judge Belfance also served as an adjunct professor at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

Elected as judge to the Akron Municipal Court in 2005 and re-elected in 2007, she served as a trial court judge handing hundreds of cases, both criminal and civil. The Akron Municipal Court was as challenging as her current position, “I found trial work very exhausting and appellate work is just as mentally taxing” explained Belfance.

Judge Belfance is very active in the community and is a frequent volunteer. She resides in Akron with her spouse of 12 years and two young children.

To learn more about the Ninth District Court of Appeals and Judge Eve Belfance, watch for her interview with John Celebrezze on *Law Talk* throughout the month of October on our local cable network and YouTube.