



**Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court Candidate  
Sharon Kennedy**  
*Republican*

**What are the top issues facing the Ohio judicial system,  
and how will you address those as chief justice?**

Speaking with families, community leaders and judges, I have heard their concerns. Foremost, is the need to timely resolve cases in the aftermath of COVID-19. Moreover, because Ohio courts are problem solving courts, they see the necessity to strengthen and grow specialty courts. Lastly, they have all asked how can we learn more about the judges who serve us and about the work that they do. As Ohio's next Chief Justice, I will resolve these issues by taking the following immediate action.

First, as it relates to docket delays, I will meet with the Presiding Judges of every county, beginning with the largest county for a situational-triage assessment. Working in collaboration with local courts we will establish a plan to address cases that are pending beyond the time guidelines.

Second, as it relates to specialty courts, I will continue my initiative "Lean Forward: Advancing the Treatment of Veterans Across Ohio" to ensure that our American heroes - our justice-involved veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive treatment. And I will collaborate with other specialty courts to advance lifeskill services that underpin recovery success.

Third, as it relates to how Ohioans can learn more about their judges, we increase the information we collect and improve the information provided by the Data Dashboard to give citizens real information about cases and how those cases were resolved.

Whatever the situation or problem is we will work from the premise "would the people be better served," and we will seek to understand and resolve issues in a manner that puts the interests of the people first.

**How do you see the role of amicus curiae parties or briefs in Ohio Supreme Court litigation?**

Amicus curiae briefs play a important role in the judicial-decision-making process. These briefs play an equally important at the jurisdictional stage as they do at the oral argument stage.



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Amicus curiae briefs have the ability to explain how the decisions of lower courts impact every Ohioan and provide a prospective of the law.

**Can you explain your judicial philosophy in plain English?**

My judicial philosophy is called judicial restraint. That means I decide only what is necessary to resolve the legal matter before me and I use the text of the constitutional provision, statute or contract to distill its meaning. Judges say what the law says, not what it should be. I believe this helps guarantee that the law remains stable and predictable and is applied fairly and equally to every Ohioan.