

JUDGE MARY E. DONOVAN

Judge Donovan was elected to the Second District Court of Appeals in November, 2004, after serving ten years with the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division.

Judge Donovan was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1950, raised in Cincinnati, Ohio where she attended Seton High School. Judge Donovan received her B.A. from the University of Cincinnati in 1973 and her J.D. from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1977.

Prior to judicial service, Judge Donovan was in the private practice of law from 1993-1995 with the firm of Allbery, Cross, Fogarty and Tuss. She was with the Montgomery County Public Defender's Office from 1990-1993; the City Law Department, City of Cincinnati Prosecutor's Office from 1989-1990; Montgomery County Public Defender's Office 1979-1988; and the Lake County Public Defender's Office from 1978-1979.

In 1988-1989, Judge Donovan took a sabbatical from private practice and taught Navajo and Apache children at St. Bonaventure Indian Mission in Thoreau, New Mexico, and assisted in legal action regarding water rights on the reservation.

Judge Donovan is Co-Chair of the Ohio Jury Instructions Editorial Board. Judge Donovan is a past member of the Board of the Dayton Volunteer Lawyer's Project, having served as Board president in 2007. She served as President of the Dayton Bar Association from July 1, 2010 - July 1, 2011. As a member of the Dayton Bar Association, she serves on the Congeniality, Eikenbary Trust, and Criminal Law Committees. Judge Donovan has also served on the University of Dayton School of Law Alumni Board, and currently serves on the Prison Advisory Board. Her past activities include: Secretary of the Government Access Advisory Board; Volunteer with the St. Joseph's Treatment Center for Children; Secretary for the COPE Halfway House, Secretary of the Dayton Bar Association, and Second Vice President of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association.

Judge Donovan is active in community theater in Montgomery and Greene Counties, and has sung the National Anthem at the Dayton Dragon's games. She enjoys music, swimming, reading, and is an avid fan of Notre Dame Football as well as Xavier University and University of Dayton basketball.