



**For Immediate Release**  
March 24, 2023

**Summit County Common Pleas Court  
Judge Kathryn Michael Elected as 2023 Administrative Judge  
and  
Judge Susan Baker Ross Elected as 2023 Presiding Judge**

Summit County, Ohio: The Summit County Court of Common Pleas General Division Judges have unanimously elected Judge Kathryn Michael as Administrative Judge and the General, Domestic Relations, Juvenile, and Probate Divisions have also unanimously elected Judge Susan Baker Ross as Presiding Judge

The Administrative Judge is responsible for the administration, docket, and calendar of the General Division. Judge Michael states that she is honored to serve the Court and our community in this important role, and looks forward to tackling the challenges this new role entails. “My role is to make sure that the Summit County Common Pleas Court continues to implement effective strategies that benefit the Court, as well as our community.” said Michael.

Judge Michael was elected as a Summit County Common Pleas General Division Judge in November of 2018, after having served 13 years as an Akron Municipal Judge. In addition to Administrative Judge and her full docket duties, Judge Michael also presides over the Summit County Domestic Violence Intervention Court (DVIC) program. The objective of the DVIC program is to break the generational cycle of domestic violence.

The Presiding Judge addresses any administrative issues common to all divisions of the Common Pleas Court and oversees the Jury and Grand Jury proceedings for the General Division. Presiding Judge Susan Baker Ross stated that she is enjoying the added responsibilities of the position and looks forward to addressing any issues or challenges as they arise. “I am humbled by the support I received from my fellow judges in supporting me for this position, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Court in this capacity.” said Ross.

Judge Ross has served on the Common Pleas Court bench for over four years, having been elected to a six year term in November 2018. In addition to her regular docket and Presiding Judge duties, Judge Baker Ross serves as Presiding Judge of Valor Court. Valor Court is a specialized docket dedicated to defendants with military service involved in the criminal justice system.

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