

News Release

Summit County Court of Common Pleas General Division



Judge Alison McCarty



Judge Susan Baker Ross

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Alison McCarty Named as the 2024 Administrative Judge & Judge Susan Baker Ross Re-Elected as 2024 Presiding Judge

Summit County, Ohio: On January 1, 2024, Judge Alison McCarty was named as the General Division's Administrative Judge, and Judge Susan Baker Ross was re-elected by the General, Domestic Relations, Probate and Juvenile Divisions to serve as Presiding Judge.

The Administrative Judge is responsible for the administration, docket, and calendar of the General Division. Judge McCarty states that she is honored to serve the Court and our community in this important role, and pledges to work together with her colleagues to address the challenges facing the court with its busy caseload. "We will work hard to effectively serve the public and adjudicate justice in a fair and timely manner," said McCarty.

As the longest-serving judge currently on the General Division bench, Judge McCarty brings over 35 years of experience to the position, having been elected in November 2008 to the Common Pleas Court. She has previously served as an Akron Municipal Judge and assistant Summit County prosecutor. In addition to Administrative Judge and her full docket duties, Judge McCarty also presides over a Reentry Court Specialty Docket. The objective of Reentry Court is to provide strict monitoring and accountability for recently released offenders, while helping them transition to a safe and productive lifestyle. The program is a minimum of 12 months long, and is designed to reduce recidivism and promote public safety.

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. As Presiding Judge in 2023, Judge Baker Ross oversaw the Court's implementation of a revised jury pool that now includes not only voters, but also individuals who hold a driver's license or state identification. In 2024, Judge Baker Ross has turned her focus to improving the juror experience. "I am honored to serve in this position for the Court and look forward to working with the jury staff in implementing several strategies to improve the overall juror experience." said Judge Baker Ross.

Judge Baker Ross has served on the Common Pleas Court bench for almost five years, having been elected to a six year term in November 2018. Prior to her election, she served as a Magistrate with the Akron Municipal Court from 2012-2019. 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 treatment docket dedicated to defendants with military service involved in the criminal justice system.

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