

2026 Judge Marianne Sezon Bio Detailed



Judge Marianne Sezon is a Common Pleas General Division Judge, the first woman to hold this position in Ashtabula County's history, elected in 2014 and now running for her third term. Marianne has a Bachelor's Degree (Cum Laude) and Master's Degree in Education from John Carroll University, and her Juris Doctor from the University of Akron School of Law. Marianne is licensed to practice law throughout the State Courts in Ohio, the Federal Northern District of Ohio, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. Marianne is further certified by the National Center for State Courts as a Court Manager.

Prior to taking the trial court Bench 12 years ago, Marianne had experience working throughout the judicial system in the State of Ohio with clerkships for the Ninth Appellate District, Supreme Court of Ohio, and the

Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas. Through these experiences at the trial and appellate levels, Marianne was inspired to enter into a career in the law, and worked in the judicial branch at the Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas General Division trial court for 17 years before becoming Judge. Further, Marianne worked at a small law firm during law school, learning the many aspects of a private legal practice.

Marianne worked her way up through the Local Court system from Law Clerk, Staff Attorney, Magistrate, Court Administrator, and now as Judge with the Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas General Division. From her legal and administrative work experience, Marianne understands the foundations that make up the Common Pleas Court, including multiple departments, and budgetary complexities of a multi-judge Court. As one of three Common Pleas General Division Judges in Ashtabula County, Marianne oversees over thirty Court employees, including General, Domestic Relations and Child Support Magistrates, Court Reporters, Bailiff, Court Administrator, Mediation, Probation, Administrative Staff, and Jury Commissioner.



“I am honored to serve the citizens of Ashtabula County”, presiding as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, now in her twelfth year, administering justice on hundreds of criminal felony cases, civil and domestic relations cases.

On her Criminal docket, Judge Sezon has presided over many multiple day Jury Trials in her Courtroom, to include felony cases of Murder, Kidnapping, Rape, and high-level Drug Trafficking to name a few. In working for her Community, Judge Sezon takes pride in the procedure and selection of Jurors in her Courtroom, who will make factual decisions as it relates to persons charged with serious crimes. “All of our Jurors take their duties seriously, and follow all of the written legal instructions of the Court. I am so honored to have persons in our Community chosen as Jurors in Courtroom jury trials, who have a very important role in the justice system.” Further, as a Grand Jury Judge for the first third of each year, Judge Sezon seats the Grand Jury who makes determinations to indict persons with serious felony crimes.

On her Civil docket, Judge Sezon has presided over a myriad of lawsuits over the past decade, to include Personal Injury, Civil and Professional Torts, Real Estate Disputes, Medical Malpractice, Foreclosures, Workers Compensation and Administrative Appeals, continuously making decisions on hundreds of motions filed throughout the year. “Having presided over the various types of civil lawsuits that are filed at the Court of Common Pleas General Division over the years, I have been blessed to learn about so many different areas of the law, constantly building upon my legal knowledge.”

Judge Sezon works diligently to administer justice in a thoughtful, efficient and timely manner, working to follow the Case Management guidelines for cases set forth by the Ohio Supreme Court. Marianne’s personality and calm demeanor in the Courtroom helps to administer justice on cases where all sides are heard, and decisions are based upon the facts and the law as applied. Judge Sezon, throughout her years as Judge, Magistrate and Attorney, has taken hundreds of hours of Continuing Legal Education, including through the Supreme Court of Ohio’s Judicial College in a wide variety of subjects in criminal, civil and domestic relations law, such as felony sentencing, specific evidentiary rules, jury trial issues, expert witnesses, and case management. “Laws and Rules are

constantly changing and being updated, and an important aspect of administering justice as a Judge at the Common Pleas General Division trial court is to be informed on the application of these ever-changing laws and rules.”

Judge Sezon is currently the Presiding Judge of the Common Pleas Court, and a member of the Common Pleas Judges Association, Ohio Judicial Conference, Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges, Ohio and Ashtabula County Bar Associations. Previously, at the Common Pleas Court, Judge Sezon presided over two specialized docket courts, both certified by the Ohio Supreme Court, the Mental Health Court, which she and her team created, and the Drug Court, with her judicial colleague Judge Thomas Harris, and she was named to the Ohio Supreme Court’s Specialized Docket Commission by the Chief Justice, upon which she served for a period of time.

Judge Sezon is involved in our Community, previously President of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, past member of several Community Boards, including the Ashtabula County Library Board, Kent State University Ashtabula Advisory Board, LEADERship Board of Trustees, and Committee for the University Hospitals Geneva Medical Center Community Christmas Card that provides life-saving equipment. Judge Sezon has received awards for her work in the community from the Ohio State Bar Association and the Ashtabula Area Chamber of Commerce. Marianne was named one of Ashtabula County’s “Most Interesting People” in the inaugural issue of the Ashtabula County Living Magazine. “It is a privilege to serve on the bench, fairly and impartially, and I am committed to serving our Community.”

Throughout the years, Marianne has been a speaker at schools, community organizations and continuing legal seminars for Attorneys and Judges on Professionalism and Court/Jury Related Topics. Judge Sezon has been the commencement speaker at Kent State University at Ashtabula and St. John School, and the keynote speaker for Memorial Day here in our

Community. Judge Sezon has worked with students from Local High Schools, Colleges and Universities through legal internships and job shadowing, helping to provide young persons with information regarding a career in the law and judiciary to assist with their career choices. Judge Sezon has spoken on a variety of legal and business-related topics throughout the years at local club meetings and events, including local Rotary Clubs, Senior Centers, Zonta, and Geneva Business Women.

A lifelong resident of Ashtabula County, Judge Sezon is proud to have a strong work ethic, learned through decades of work in her family's business, Eddie's Grill at Geneva on the Lake, which her father Eddie, now 93 years old, started in 1950. Of all of her accomplishments, Judge Sezon is probably best known for her work at Eddies' Grill, where she started work at a very young age. Marianne grew up at Eddie's Grill in the family business, working there for multiple decades before becoming Judge. Marianne was a familiar fixture at Eddie's Grill, as a youngster she was sweeping floors, wiping trays, cleaning tables and waiting on customers at her family's business, learning that a strong work ethic leads to life accomplishments.

Marianne's multiple years of customer service in the private sector at Eddie's Grill have provided her with communication skills and self-discipline that she uses every day in the public sector. As Judge, she works with other community stakeholders including those in other branches of government. In later years, Marianne's involvement in her family's business included management, and legal and business matters. Marianne is a lifelong resident of Ashtabula County, residing with her husband Richard Dana, an attorney and magistrate, also involved in the legal field. Marianne enjoys a special closeness with her family, and is proud of her Slovenian heritage that has provided her with the foundation to prove that, together with hard work and family values, the American Dream is a reality for persons throughout our Community and in America today.