

For Immediate Release:

3/12/2020

Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas

Division of Domestic Relations

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Cuyahoga Judge Appointed to Key Leadership Role

CLEVELAND – Judge Tonya R. Jones yesterday was sworn in as a Trustee of the Executive Board for the Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges. The Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges (OADRJ) consists of common pleas judges having domestic relations court jurisdiction. The association promotes the common business interest of domestic relations court judges and courts throughout the state of Ohio.

The Association addresses issues affecting divorce, dissolution, legal separation, and annulment, civil domestic violence cases, child custody, child support, parenting time issues, spousal support, and other related matters, as well as court administration aspects of these issues. The Association works closely with the Ohio Judicial Conference Domestic Relations Law and Procedure Committee on legislative issues affecting domestic relations courts.

Under Judge Jones' direction, the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court is also collaborating with the Adult Advocacy Centers, a disability victim services agency. The purpose of the collaboration is to create strategies that ensure people with disabilities have meaningful interactions, accommodations, treatment, and access when intersecting with the justice system, within the constraints of the law.

Judge Jones presides over the Domestic Relations Court's *Families First* program which she founded in 2018. Under a grant from the Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County, the program is designed to assist participants with accessing the treatment and supportive services necessary to overcome substance abuse, mental health and parenting issues. The grant, renewed for a third year, provides funding for under- and uninsured working-class county residents in need of help.

"I'm very excited about my appointment as Trustee and look forward to joining the other judges on the Executive Board who work tirelessly to provide leadership for a just and effective domestic relations court system throughout the state of Ohio," said Jones. "The collaboration with the Adult Advocacy Centers is in line with the other forward-thinking initiatives which this Court has traditionally developed. This collaboration along with the continuation of the Families First Program will provide much needed assistance for the families our Court serves. I am thankful for the support of Administrative Judge, Leslie Ann Celebrezze, and my other colleagues who foster and support progressive and innovative ideas within the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court."

For more information about Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Division of Domestic Relations services and programs, please visit us on the web: <http://domestic.cuyahogacounty.us/> and follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @CuyDomRelations.