

**MEDINA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION
99 Public Square, 2nd Floor
Medina, OH 44256**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Daniel F. Maynard, Court Administrator
Phone: 330-764-8154
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Subject: Judge Mary Kovack to seek re-election

Judge Mary Kovack is pleased to announce that she is seeking re-election as the judge of the Medina County Domestic Relations Court. Judge Kovack filed her petitions Tuesday with the Medina County Board of Elections. If re-elected, Judge Kovack would be serving her fourth term as judge of the Medina County Domestic Relations Court.

“As a Judge, a former Medina County assistant prosecutor, a family law attorney, and a single-parent who has been through the process, I understand that when families fight, only the lawyers win.”

Judge Kovack has been the sole judge of the Medina County Domestic Relations Court for the past 18 years. Judge Kovack was first elected to the Medina County Domestic Relations Court in 2000, and was re-elected in 2006 and 2012. Judge Kovack ran un-opposed in 2012.

“When I first ran for judge, I promised you that I would put families first. Over the last 18 years, I have kept my promise to you. During my time as your domestic relation judge, I have created several no-cost/low-cost programs that have helped thousands of families deal with the changes to their family dynamic, reduce their conflict and resolve their differences.”

Judge Kovack’s programs include:

- (1) **Justice for Families Grant:** In September 2017, Judge Kovack was awarded a \$699,961 federal grant through the U.S. Department of Justice to help Medina County families affected by domestic violence.
- (2) **Guardian ad Litem Seminar:** In May 2017, Judge Kovack sponsored a free, 3-hour continuing legal education seminar in order to better train guardians *ad litem* and family law attorneys practicing in the Medina County Domestic Relations Court.
- (3) **Conflict Management Services:** In 2014, Judge Kovack implemented the Intensive Case Management program to help parents improve effective communication and parenting skills, in order to reduce conflict and ultimately reduce the amount of on-going litigation.

- (4) **Domestic Violence Grant:** In 2011, Judge Kovack received a \$315,782 federal grant through the U.S. Department of Justice to help families affected by domestic violence. In 2013, the grant was renewed for \$295,168.
- (5) **Legal Resource Center:** In 2006, Judge Kovack introduced the Legal Resource Center to help improve access to legal information, forms, books and other legal resources to help guide families through the legal process. The Legal Resource Center operates both at the Courthouse and at various local libraries.
- (6) **The Gift Exchange Center:** In 2004, Judge Kovack established the Gift Exchange Center (also known as the “Supervised Parenting Time & Safe Exchange Center”) to help facilitate healthy parent-child relationships for at-risk families of Medina County.
- (7) **Family Services Assessment:** In 2003, Judge Kovack expanded the Community Service program to provide a Case Services Assessment for all cases involving children, in order to better understand each family’s unique circumstances and to better serve the needs of the family.
- (8) **Mediation:** In 2001, Judge Kovack also established a Mediation program, which has helped several thousand families since it began.
- (9) **Community Services:** In 2001, Judge Kovack established a Community Services Office to link families with agencies and resources in the community.

“If re-elected, I will continue to find new and inexpensive ways to help both parents and children. I will continue to put families first.”

Judge Mary Kovack received her B.A. degree, with honors, from the College of Wooster, and her law degree, *cum laude*, from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.
