



Women at Akron Law

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The University of Akron School of Law has played a significant role in bringing women into the profession and onto the judicial bench. The School of Law has always been open to women, but the numbers were low through the 1960s. From the mid-1970s through the 1980s, the percentage of female graduates increased from twenty to forty percent. In the 2000s it increased from forty to fifty-six percent, varying from year to year.

Law students become lawyers, and lawyers become judges. We have two judges on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit—Batchelder ('71) and Cook ('78). The increase in Akron Law female judges has been most

significant in Summit County and in the jurisdiction of the Ninth District Court of Appeals (including Summit, Wayne, Lorain, and Medina Counties). For a time in the 2000s, the Ninth District was the only Ohio appellate court composed exclusively of women. Currently, of its five judges, we have Callahan ('84), Carr ('84), and Schafer ('02). Today all of the judges on the Summit County Court of Common Pleas (general division) are women. Akron graduates are Breaux ('01), Corrigan Jones ('01), Croce ('94), Lanzinger ('04), Michael ('86), Malek Oldfield ('00), and Rowlands ('89). Akron can also count Probate Court Judge Stormer ('82) on the Probate Court and Tucci Teodosio ('82) on the Juvenile Court, as well as one of the two Domestic Relations judges, Cook ('90). We can also count one of the two judges on the Stow Municipal Court—Coates ('90), and three of the six judges in the Akron Municipal Court—Stubbs Williams ('84), O'Brien ('91), and Walker ('06).