

**Kentucky
Candidate
Information
Survey**



JUDICIAL SURVEY 2018

Each judicial candidate pledges to keep an open mind and carry out their adjudicative duties faithfully and impartially if elected.

Each candidate also recognizes their overarching obligation to apply and uphold the law, without regard to his or her personal views.

<p>No statement should be interpreted as a pledge, promise, or commitment in connection with any case, controversy, or issue likely to come before the court.</p>	 <p>Pamela Goodwine judgegoodwine.com</p>	 <p>Rob Johnson keepjudgerobjohnson.com</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>Juris Doctorate, University of Kentucky College of Law, 1994 and Bachelor of Business Administration, University of Kentucky Carol Martin Gatton College of Business, 1991</p>	<p>Georgetown College, B.A. 1992 University of Kentucky College of Law, J.D. 1996</p>
<p>Current Occupation</p>	<p>Chief Regional Circuit Judge for the 22nd Judicial District, Division 4</p>	<p>Judge, Kentucky Court of Appeals, 2017-current Judge, Kentucky Circuit Court (Bourbon, Scott and Woodford counties), 2005-2017</p>
<p>Family</p>	<p>Married for 18 years to Lee Padgett, Jr. with Lee's two children and six grandchildren and an 11 year old German Shepherd named Kobe.</p>	<p>Rebecca and I have been married for 25 years and we have 5 children: Ben (20), Sam (18), Caleb (16), Hannah (13) and Beth (9).</p>
<p>Legal Background / Experience</p>	<p>Trial judge 1999-2018 (4 years district court/15 years circuit court). Vice Chief for 8 years, currently Chief Regional Circuit Court Judge in Fayette County. Litigation attorney at Wyatt Tarrant & Combs 1994-1999. Judge Shively's legal secretary 1987-1991. Court stenographer 1979-1987 (4 years each freelance court reporter and official roving reporter).</p>	<p>Before becoming one of the youngest circuit judges in Kentucky history in 2005, I represented numerous clients in Georgetown, Kentucky as a solo practitioner. This allowed me to gain competence in many different areas of the law commonly heard in Circuit Court and reviewed before the Court of Appeals.</p>
<p>What do you consider the greatest accomplishment of your legal career? Why? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Maintaining a reputation for being tough but fair and professional resulting in being honored as Trial Judge of the Year in 2012, inducted into the UK Carol Martin Gatton Hall of Fame in 2000 and honored with the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award by the Fayette County Bar Association in 2001.</p>	<p>I presided over dozens of criminal trials during the 12 years I was circuit judge, including several murder trials, and I was never reversed on appeal from any of them.</p>
<p>To what extent have you practiced in the area of criminal law? Family law? Complex civil litigation? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>As a trial judge for 19 years, I have presided over more than 4,000 civil and criminal cases including more capital murder cases than any other trial judge in Kentucky. I have also presided over multiple class action lawsuits, complex construction disputes, medical malpractice cases and tort litigation.</p>	<p>As a practitioner, I handled numerous criminal, family and civil cases. As an appellate and trial judge for the last 13 years, I have presided over a number of cases involving murder, assault, robbery, arson, sex crimes, parental termination, custody disputes, medical malpractice, insurance bad faith, defamation and land disputes.</p>
<p>What forms of voluntary professional and community service have you been involved with in the past? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Service to my community personally and professionally is a very important part of my life. I have voluntarily presided in Kentucky Specialty Courts for 7 years and have enjoyed serving as a mentor, motivational and inspirational speaker, Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher and Leadership Lexington participant.</p>	<p>I have prepared materials and spoken at numerous legal seminars, coached youth soccer, served on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, Children's Montessori, Georgetown Child Development, Ed Davis Community, and Elkhorn Crossing School. I have been deacon/teacher at the local Baptist church and production team member at Southland Christian.</p>

By sharing how each candidate describes themselves, their qualifications, and judicial philosophy, the KCIS Judicial Survey is bringing light to the area voters are often least informed about. Thus, improving 1) voter knowledge; 2) voter participation; and 3) the quality of the democratic process.

KCIS is a non-partisan project of the Family Trust Foundation of Kentucky.

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Pamela Goodwine

judgegoodwine.com

**KY Court of Appeals
District 5, Division 1**



Rob Johnson

keepjudgerobjohnson.com

<p>What are the major influences in your life? Why? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>My faith, work ethic and values were instilled in me by my parents from a very young age and continue to be the driving influences in my life today. I have strong ethics and conscience which guide my life and decisions personally and professionally.</p>	<p>My mom, Willa, a guidance counselor for 40 years, taught me to work hard, but play a little. My dad, Gayle, an assistant superintendent, modeled community service. My grandfather, Andrew, a farmer and principal, demonstrated conservation of resources. My grandmother, Margaret, a teacher, instilled planning ahead and finishing my work.</p>
<p>Are there any specific types of cases in which you know now you would find it necessary to recuse yourself? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>In the last 10 years, which of the following organizations have you been a member, contributed money, volunteered time, been employed by, been endorsed by for a campaign, received money from for a campaign, or had any other affiliation?</p>	<p>AFL-CIO American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Chamber of Commerce Christian Legal Society Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Kentucky Fairness Alliance National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) National Organization for Women (NOW) Planned Parenthood Immanuel Baptist Church</p>	<p>Chamber of Commerce Kentucky Right to Life National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Pregnancy Help Center Southland Christian Church</p>
<p>Some judges practice a philosophy of restraint, believing that judges must interpret the law strictly rather than seek to make new laws. Others develop a philosophy of activism, using the bench to enact social and political change. Please explain your approach. (50 words or less)</p>	<p>I believe that the role of judges is to interpret the law fairly and administer justice consistently providing a fair and equitable opportunity for all.</p>	<p>My judicial philosophy is one of restraint. The judicial branch is an important safeguard to protect our citizens' rights as expressly enumerated in the Constitution. Any changes should come through the amendment process and not the courts.</p>
<p>Some judges believe that courts should read the Constitution expansively and should not limit themselves to what is explicitly stated. Others believe the courts should not reinterpret the Constitution. Please explain your approach. (50 words or less)</p>	<p>I believe the Constitution should be strictly construed as to its intent.</p>	<p>I am a strict constructionist. It is the duty of a judge to interpret the Constitution as written and not infer rights into it.</p>

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<p>Some judges believe that courts should interpret the Constitution as the framers intended. Others believe that the Constitution must grow and adapt to new circumstances. Please explain your approach. (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Our government leaders have added amendments to the Constitution in order to ensure equality for all.</p>	<p>As a judge, it is my responsibility to interpret the Constitution as the framers intended. If rights can be adjudicated into the Constitution, then they can also be adjudicated out of it. Our God-given rights are precious and should be revered and protected by our courts.</p>
<p>What is your general judicial philosophy? (75 words or less)</p>	<p>I believe that justice should be administered fairly and equally to all based upon the laws of this country.</p>	<p>My general judicial philosophy is textualism. As stated above, judges should interpret the law according to the intent of the body that enacted it. The Constitution should only be changed by the amendment process and not by judicial decree. As Justice Neal Gorsuch stated, "It is the role of judges to apply, not alter, the work of the people's representatives. A judge who likes every outcome he reaches is very likely a bad judge."</p>
<p>Which of the current/recent Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court MOST reflects your judicial philosophy and why? Which LEAST reflects it and why? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg most closely reflects my judicial philosophy as a result of her upbringing of strong values and independence, her solid stance on equal rights and her belief that laws should be administered without bias.</p>	<p>The current/recent Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court that most reflect my judicial philosophy are Justice Antonin Scalia and Justice Clarence Thomas because they are textualists. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Justice Stephen Breyer least reflect my judicial philosophy because they interpret the Constitution to adapt to a predetermined result.</p>
<p>What do you see as the most important issue facing Kentucky's judiciary? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>I believe the most important issue facing Kentucky's judiciary is the escalating opioid epidemic and prison overcrowding.</p>	<p>One of the most important issues facing Kentucky's judiciary is the protection of our right to freedom of religion. This is one of our most basic rights, as it is explicitly enumerated in the First Amendment. It should be guarded as sacred for everyone.</p>
<p>What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice, if any? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>One of the greatest obstacles to justice is the disparate treatment of defendants based on demographic variables.</p>	<p>Justice delayed is justice denied. It is the judge's responsibility to move cases forward. In one specific death penalty case before me, some of the attorneys were needlessly causing delay. I cured the problem by setting definite deadlines. One of the main witnesses died shortly after the trial concluded.</p>
<p>What steps will you take as a judge to ensure that the rule of law is uniformly applied without passion or prejudice? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>During 19 years as trial judge, I have earned a solid reputation for administering the law fairly and uniformly. After serving their sentence, defendants I sent to prison have thanked me for my strong but fair hand and helping them learn to be accountable and become productive citizens again.</p>	<p>In order to ensure the rule of law, judges must be well-informed of our state and national laws and procedures, experienced in legal research, able to write well-reasoned opinions that are easily understood, and be committed to the consistent application of the law--regardless of a party's circumstances.</p>

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<p>While serving on the bench, do you believe you have a role in bringing important legal or judicial issues before the public or the legislature? Why or why not? What should your role be? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>Pamela Goodwine judgegoodwine.com</p> <p>As a member of the judiciary, I believe it is my responsibility to ensure that the judicial system is representative of the needs of our country. With trial experience, judges are able to see how the interpretation of a law as written can result in unintended and undesired consequences.</p>	<p>Rob Johnson keepjudgerobjohnson.com</p> <p>The judicial code allows judges to participate in public discussion on matters concerning the law and legal system. Judges have a unique perspective from engaging with the public through the court system and should get involved in matters such as the opioid epidemic, criminal record expungement, and law and order.</p>	
<p>What makes you the best qualified candidate for this position? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>My entire professional career has been in the legal profession and I have worked hard every step of the way to learn all I possibly can and ascend with increasing levels of responsibility. I have also seen the judicial system from the other vantage point when my mother was murdered.</p>	<p>In addition to having the experience, knowledge and diligence to best represent Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Mercer, Scott and Woodford counties on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, my Kentucky values allow me to make wise decisions in the important cases that come before the court.</p>	
<p>Is there anything else you would like the voter to know? (50 words or less)</p>	<p>My reputation and experience speak for itself: I have tried more capital murder cases than any judge in Kentucky and more cases than any judge in 5th Appellate District. My responsibility and dedication to the judiciary are recognized with Trial Judge of the Year in 2012 and many other awards.</p>	<p>I am a proud husband and father of 5 great kids. We regularly attend church and I am heavily engaged there and throughout my community. I love my country and have an earnest desire to preserve our system of government for generations to come. I humbly ask for your vote!</p>	

Overview of Kentucky's Court System

Supreme Court

Basic Info: The Supreme Court is the state court of last resort and the final interpreter of Kentucky law. Seven justices sit on the Supreme Court and all seven justices rule on appeals before the court.

Cases Handled: Appeals involving the death penalty, life imprisonment or imprisonment for 20 years or more go directly from Circuit Court to the Supreme Court. All other appeals must first be heard by the Court of Appeals, except those so exceptional that the Supreme Court will grant a request to bypass the Court of Appeals.

Term: District judges serve four-year terms.



Court of Appeals

Basic Info: Fourteen judges, two elected from each of the seven appellate districts, serve on the Court of Appeals and are divided into panels of three to review and decide cases, with the majority deciding the outcome.

Cases Handled: With a few exceptions, most cases appealed from Circuit Court go to the Court of Appeals. The case is not retried at the appeals level. Instead, the original trial record is reviewed, with attorneys presenting the legal issues to the court for a decision.

Term: Court of Appeals judges serve eight-year terms.



Circuit Courts

Note: Family Court is a division of Circuit Court that hears only cases involving families and children.

Cases Handled: Can hear all types of cases unless the General Assembly has given exclusive jurisdiction of particular kinds of cases to another court to handle, such as District Court. Circuit Court hears civil matters involving more than \$5,000, capital offenses and felonies, divorces, adoptions, termination of parental rights, land dispute title problems and contested probates of will. It also has the power to issue injunctions and writs of prohibition and mandamus to compel or prohibit acts, and to hear appeals from District Court and administrative agencies.

Term: Circuit judges serve eight-year terms.



District Courts

Cases Handled: Hears juvenile matters, city and county ordinances, traffic offenses, probates of will, felony preliminary hearings, civil cases involving \$5,000 or less, guardianship, conservatorship, voluntary or involuntary commitment, child abuse and neglect, and domestic violence.

Term: District judges serve four-year terms.