

Making a Difference Nomination Supplement for Denise Herman McColley

I have known Denise McColley for over ten years, and am constantly amazed at her energy and dedication to both professional and community development efforts. She is a tenacious worker who constantly seeks ways in which families and children can lead successful and meaningful lives. She works diligently both within and outside of her professional life to support those agencies and organizations that make our communities better places to live.

Ms. McColley has been Judge of the Henry County Family Court since 2005. Prior to her election, she served eight years as magistrate of Henry and Fulton Counties' Common Pleas Courts. Prior to her magistrate appointment, she engaged in fifteen years of private legal practice. During that time she maintained a private mediation practice and was active in Maumee Valley Mediation and Dispute Resolution Services and the Mediation Association of Northwest Ohio. She is a past-president of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), the Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Courts Judges, and the Henry County Bar Association. She previously served on the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges Board, the Ohio Task Force for Family Law and Children, the American Bar Association Pro Bono Child Custody Project Advisory Committee, the Ohio Lawyers' Assistance Program Judicial Advisory Group, and the Ohio Judicial College Board of Trustees. She is a member of the Ohio Judicial Conference's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Law and Procedure Committees and a member of the Ohio Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Children and Families. She is an Advanced Practitioner member of the Association for Conflict Resolution Academy of Family Mediators and is the author of Chapter 6 *Alternative Forms of Dispute Resolution*, in Baldwin's Ohio Practice: Domestic Relations Law, and is co-author of *Children's Voices in Family Court: Guidelines for Judges Meeting Children*, Family Law Quarterly, Fall 2013. She received the AFCC's John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award (2008) and President's Award (1999), Ohio State Bar Foundation Public or Government Service Award (2001) and Ohio Association of Magistrates Judicial Award (2008).

The commitments and contributions that Ms. McColley makes to community organizations are substantial. She is a founding member, past chair and current secretary of the Symphony of Trees children's services fundraiser in Napoleon that in the past 16 years has raised over \$800,000 in support of the Center for Child & Family Advocacy, Henry County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)/Guardian ad Litem (GAL), and youth services of the Henry County Hospital. She served as a board member of the Henry County Hospital Foundation from 2002-2016, is a founding member and past officer of the Hope Services Foundation Board of Trustees, is a founding member and former officer of the Center for Child and Family Advocacy (fka. Center for Abuse Prevention and Treatment), a founding member of CASA/GAL Board of Trustees, and former officer of the Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Additionally, she was a founding member of the Henry County Humane Society and an Executive Committee member of the Napoleon Area Chamber of Commerce, is a member and officer of the Ohio State University Alumni Club of Northwest Ohio and a founding member and past officer of the Napoleon High School Alumni Association.

Ms. McColley is a lifetime member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Napoleon where she has served as Chair of the Social Ministry Board, member of the Youth Board and has taught Sunday School.