



JOHN R. KASICH

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Communication Department

Judge Judith L. French

Judge Judith L. French currently serves in the 10th District Court of Appeals. She was appointed to the seat in October 2004, elected in November 2004, and re-elected in November 2010. She serves on an eight-member court with jurisdiction over civil, criminal and administrative appeals. In addition, she has joined the Ohio Supreme Court as a visiting judge several times and as a visiting judge on the Second, Third, Fourth and Ninth District Courts of Appeals.

French began her legal career as an Associate for Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur from 1988-1992, with a focus on environmental permitting, compliance, and enforcement issues before moving on to serve as Corporate Counsel for Steelcase Inc. from 1992-1993.

In 1993, French heeded the call to public service when she began serving as the Deputy Director for Legal Affairs at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. As chief legal counsel, she advised the director and senior management on issues of state and federal environmental law and managed a 25-attorney legal office.

She joined the office of Attorney General Betty Montgomery in 1997 as Section Chief and later became Chief Counsel. In 2002, she argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris* to defend the Cleveland school choice program and emerged victorious by a 5-4 margin. Earlier, she appeared in front of the U.S. Supreme Court to advocate the state's position on environmental regulations in *Whitman v. American Trucking Associations, Inc.*

In 2002, she joined the Office of Governor Bob Taft as his Chief Counsel and served until her appointment to the Tenth District Court of Appeals in 2004.

In 1988, French graduated *cum laude* from The Ohio State University College of Law and received a Master's Degree in History (Military History & Strategic Studies) from OSU. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from OSU in 1984.

She currently serves as a member of the Constitutional Modernization Commission co-chaired by Speaker William Batchelder and Rep. Vernon Sykes. She is a member of the OSU Moritz College of Law National Council and is proud to be a board member of Amethyst, Inc.; a center for long-term addiction treatment with safe housing for women and their children. She is a member of the Ohio Women's Bar Association and has volunteered as a mentor in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization.

Judge French lives in central Ohio with her husband and two children.