



IAAS Walks of Life 2011
JUDGE PATRICIA ANNE GAUGHAN

When Patricia Anne Gaughan entered Notre Dame Law School in the mid-1970s, her goal was to prepare for a career in corporate law. However, while taking classes in evidence and trial advocacy and serving on the school's moot court team, she became enamored with trial work and set her sights on working within the court system.

After receiving her law degree in 1978, she became an assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor under the legendary Prosecutor John T. Corrigan. She left that office in 1983 to work in the Economic Crime Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office, but rejoined Corrigan's office a year later. She became the first female in the Major Trial Division to handle high profile cases.

In 1986, she won election as a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas judge. In 1994, Sen. John Glenn put together a commission to choose a candidate for an open seat on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division. Out of dozens of candidates, the committee recommended Gaughan as their first choice. She won Senate approval during Christmas week that year and was sworn in as a federal judge the following month.

Judge Gaughan grew up in Fairview Park, the third of five daughters of Dr. John and Alma Gaughan. The family traces its Irish ancestry back to the Achill Islands in County Mayo. During a visit to Achill six years ago, Judge Gaughan gave a talk about Achill residents who emigrated to Cleveland.

In 2007, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts appointed Judge Gaughan to the prestigious Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction. That same year, she received the Jurisprudence Award from ORT American in recognition of her contributions to the enhancement of her profession and her community.

Judge Gaughan serves as a director of Magnificat High School, the St. John Medical Center Community Board, and the Ursuline College Legal Studies Advisory Board.

She and her husband, Roger Andrachik, an attorney and assistant principal of St. Raphael School in Bay Village, have a son and a daughter. The family lives in Rocky River.

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