

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint Julia McNeil Danish, Independent, from Gahanna, Franklin County, Ohio, as a Member of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission for a term beginning March 19, 2021 and ending at the close of business July 28, 2025, replacing Juan P. Cespedes, whose term expired.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed, at Columbus, this 19th day of March in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty One.

Mike DeWine

Mike DeWine
Governor

J. RITA MCNEIL DANISH

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KEY SKILLS ASSESSMENT

- Extensive corporate counsel/chief legal officer experience
- Extensive experience representing clients in both K-12 and higher education, including Title IX, employment law, contract compliance and regulatory oversight
- Empowering leader with innate ability to manage multiple priorities, proactively identify and resolve issues
- Excellent interpersonal skills with strength in maintaining and building productive relationships that ignite performance, drive improvement, and produce results
- Excellent client-facing, presentation, communication skills, both verbal/written

BUSINESS & LAW FIRM EXPERIENCE

Taft, Stettinius and Hollister, | Partner

Columbus, Ohio and Chicago, Illinois | 2017– Present

- Partner in major regional law firm with diverse practice in both K-12 and higher education, including Title IX, municipal law, crisis management, government affairs, employment, human resources and equity, diversity and inclusion.

JD²Strategists, LLC | Founder and CEO

Columbus, Ohio | 2012– Present

- Minority and Women owned business dedicated to strategic transformation for public and private sector clients in the governmental arena in areas such as Title IX and employment investigations, policy development, equity, diversity and inclusion, crisis management, advocacy and dispute resolution.

Crabbe, Brown & James | Of Counsel & Associate

Columbus, Ohio | 2015 - 2017; 2013–2014; 1995–1996

- Practice focused on varied areas including municipal law, government affairs, diversity and inclusion, economic development, administrative law, labor and employment, civil rights and litigation. Practice also included corporate matters, domestic relations, and juvenile law .

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber | Vice President for Government Affairs

Cincinnati, Ohio | 2008 – 2010

- Led advocacy efforts for the region and its more than 5,000 member businesses at the local, state, and federal levels. Directed government affairs programming and coordinated connectivity between elected officials and regional business leaders.

CORPORATE COUNSEL/ CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER EXPERIENCE

City of Greensboro | Greensboro, North Carolina; 2010–2011

City of Cincinnati | Cincinnati, Ohio; 2002–2008

City of Dayton | Dayton, Ohio; 1998–2002

- Served as Corporation Counsel (also known as City Attorney, Chief Legal Officer and City Solicitor) for the Municipal Corporations of Cincinnati, Dayton, and Greensboro. Chief legal counsel and attorney for the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Officers, Departments, and Boards of the City in all matters.
- Represented the City in all proceedings in which the City was a party before any court or adjudicatory body, including serving as the Prosecuting Attorney in Municipal Court. In Cincinnati, these duties also included the Division of Real Estate which was responsible for the acquisition, management, and sale of real property, business and family relocation, and the levying of assessments.
- Managed staffs ranging from thirty (30) to eighty (80) employees and department budgets ranging from two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) to four million dollars (\$4,000,000.00).

Ohio Attorney General's Office, Civil Rights Section | Section Chief

Columbus, Ohio | 1996–1998

- Manager and legal advisor responsible for providing advice, counsel, and training, as well as litigating on behalf of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. Managed a legal staff of ten (10).

Ohio Department of Commerce | Chief Legal Counsel; Acting Superintendent, Division of Real Estate

Columbus, Ohio | 1992–1994

- Served as manager of legal programs for nine (9) divisions such as Real Estate, Securities, and Financial Institutions, and as legal advisor to the Director, Division Heads, and legislative personnel. Duties also included managing employees in Real Estate Division, which is empowered to license and regulate all real estate brokers, salespersons, appraisers, and cemeteries throughout Ohio.

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic & Juvenile Division | Judge & Magistrate

Columbus, Ohio | 2014; 1994–1995

- Fairly and impartially settled disputes according to the law. Maintained jurisdiction over all proceedings involving divorce or dissolution of marriage, annulment, legal separation, spousal support and allocations of rights and responsibilities for the care of children. Administered justice to persons under 18 years of age charged with crimes. Resolved cases involving paternity, child abuse, nonsupport, and contributing to the delinquency of minors.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Wright State University | Dayton, Ohio

Administrative Law Adjunct | Fall Semester 2013, 2014

- Part-time professor teaching administrative law class to Masters of Public Administration students.

Central State University | Dayton, Ohio

Business Law Adjunct | Spring & Fall Semesters 2013, 2014

- Part-time professor teaching business law to undergraduate students and adult weekend program students.

The Ohio State University, College of Law | Columbus, Ohio

Legal Writing Adjunct Professor | January 1993 – August 1995

- Reviewed and evaluated memoranda, briefs, and other legal documents of students in the legal writing section of law curriculum.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- United States Supreme Court
- Supreme Court of Ohio
- Illinois Supreme Court
- United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

PUBLICATIONS

- The "Occupy Movement" and Regulating Public Spaces, Municipal Lawyer, International Municipal Lawyers Association, July – August (2012).
- Municipal Subdivision Liability Under Section 1983 in Perino, J.C., Citizen Oversight of Law Enforcement, Chicago: American Bar Association, 97-113 (2006).

EDUCATION

- The Ohio State University, College of Law | Columbus, Ohio Juris Doctor, 1989
- OSU College of Law Merit Scholar
- Moot Court Governing Board, Chief Justice
- Howard University | Washington, DC Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing, Cum laude 1985

PAST & PRESENT AFFILIATIONS

- Board of Directors, National Board, Women for Economic and Leadership Development (WELD)
- Board of Directors, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
- Board of Directors, Ohio Chamber of Commerce
- Chair, Ohio State Bar Association Women in the Profession Section
- Board of Directors, Women's Small Business Accelerator (WSBA)
- Vice Chair, Board of Directors Matriots PAC
- Court Appointed Special Advocates, Board of Directors Franklin County (CASA)
- Black Women Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago (BWLA)
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Central Ohio Chapter
- Ohio Supreme Court Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness
- Vice President, Ohio's Minority Development Advisory Board
- Board of Directors, International Municipal Lawyers Association
- Founding President, St. Vincent De Paul Charitable Pharmacy Board

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointment Date: 3/19/2021

Name of Appointee: Julia McNeil Danish
Address: 310 Crossing Creek N.
Gahanna, OH 43230
Franklin County
(H) –
(W) – 6142200229
(M) – 9374705526
(E) – jd2strategists@gmail.com

Name of Commission: Ohio Civil Rights Commission
Angela Phelps-White, Executive Director
30 E Broad, 5th Floor
Columbus, OH 43230
(614) 466-4032

Term Begins: 7/29/2020
Term Ends: 7/28/2025
Party Affiliation: Independent
Senate Confirmation: Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate
Financial Disclosure: Public disclosure required
Vice: Juan P. Cespedes