

# Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint Peter Lawson Jones, from Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, as a Member of the Ohio Arts Council for a term beginning January 6, 2023 and ending at the close of business July 1, 2026, replacing Gary L. Hanson, 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 6th day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty Three.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Mike DeWine  
Governor

## Peter Lawson Jones



Peter Lawson Jones is an attorney, business consultant, professional actor, dramatist and former elected official.

Jones, a member of both SAG-AFTRA and Actors' Equity Association, has appeared in over twenty films as well as on network television. Among his many credits are *Judas and the Black Messiah*, *White Boy Rick*, *Alex Cross*, *The Assassin's Code*, *Starve*, NBC's *Chicago Fire* and ABC's *Detroit 1-8-7*. He has appeared in plays at numerous venues throughout Northeast Ohio and in staged readings Off-Broadway at the Cherry Lane and Ensemble theatres. A drama he authored, *The Family Line*, has been successfully produced at Karamu Performing Arts Theatre, Harvard University and Ohio University and has received staged readings at several other venues. His second play, *The Bloodless Jungle*, has enjoyed two full productions at Ensemble Theatre in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and will be included in Brooklyn's Ryan Repertory Company's 2021-2022 season. The drama has also received staged readings at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Dallas Convention Center, the National Black Theatre Festival, Duquesne University and in New York City. *Land of Cleve*, a Northeast Ohio arts and culture blog, ranked the 2017 production one of the best in the region last year.

Jones is the executive producer of *Fatherhood 101* a documentary on the critical importance of responsible fatherhood. He is a consultant in the areas of government relations, community engagement, event planning, fundraising, market development and fatherhood programming.

From February 2002, through December 2010, Jones served as a member of the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners and for three of those years as its president. He previously served two and one-half terms in the Ohio House of Representatives, where he was the ranking member of the House Finance and Appropriations Committee and second vice president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus.

Jones was formerly the Vice Mayor and a Councilman in the City of Shaker Heights, Ohio. He was also the first African-American ever nominated to run for lieutenant governor in the history of the state of Ohio. In addition, Jones previously served as special counsel for the Ohio Attorney General and associate bar examiner for the Supreme Court of Ohio.

A graduate of Harvard College (magna cum laude in Government) and Harvard Law School, Jones was formerly law director and prosecutor for the Village of Woodmere, Ohio, and president of the Ohio Works! Company in Cleveland, a venture that placed welfare recipients in permanent full-time employment. He has also worked as a law clerk with the Supreme Court of Ohio, a congressional liaison officer with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, a speechwriter and spokesman for the 1976 Carter/Mondale Presidential Campaign and a press and legislative aide with the United States House of Representatives.

Development Award (2010), the Shoes and Clothes for Kids Golden Shoe Award (2002), the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland No Child Should Go Hungry Award (2003), Towards Employment Advocate of Note Award (2008), Project: LEARN Friend of Literacy Award (2009), the Cuyahoga Community College Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Service-Learning Program Next Generation Award (2007), the Knights & Ladies of St. Peter Claver African-American Male Image Award (2003), Spanish American Committee Amigo Award (2002), The Citizens of Cuyahoga County Ombudsman Office Honorary Ombudsman Award (2007), the NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Champions of Choice Award (2005), the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Gamma Rho Chapter Y.E.S. Outstanding Service Award (2006), the New Directions Community Gratitude Award (2003-2004), Rona A. Carter Scholarship Fund Foster Care Hero Award (2009), UndergroundKweens2U Celebrating Fathers in Our Community Fatherhood Award/Spotlight Honoree (2009) and the Parents of Comfort Outstanding Community Achievement Award (2007). In addition, Jones has, for his contributions to the community, been inducted into the Mt. Zion Church of Oakwood Village City of Zion Fine Arts Center in 2006 and has received awards from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (1977) for meritorious service as well as from the Homeless Service Network (2002), Nela Residential Association and Cleveland East Watch (2002), Concord Baptist Church (2002), East Ohio Gas Company and WZAK-FM (1992), United Area Citizens Agency (1992), Eastside Coalition (1986) and the Shaker Heights High School PUSH-Excel Program (1981).

For his efforts as a legislator, Jones received the Ohio School Counselors Association Legislator of the Year Award (2000), Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbank's Ohio Hunger Hero Award (2000), a Certificate of Appreciation from the Northern Ohio Breast Cancer Coalition and the Center for Families and Children Fathers and Families Together Community and Families First Awards (2000). He was one of approximately forty state legislators from across the nation selected to attend the 1997 Emerging Political Leaders Program at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business. In 1998, he was one of twelve state level officials selected by Project Interchange to travel overseas to participate in its Israel Seminar.

As a performer and playwright, Jones has received the 2016 Indie Gathering International Film Festival Best Ohio Supporting Actor Award and the African-American Playwrights Exchange 2012 Artist of the Year Award. The arts and entertainment blog, *Land of Cleve*, named the 2017 production of his play, *The Bloodless Jungle*, one of Northeast Ohio's plays of the year.

In his leisure time, Jones enjoys sports, reading and travel. Jones and his spouse Lisa are the proud parents of three children: Ryan Charles, Leah Danielle and Evan Cooke. They are members of Mt. Zion Congregational Church, UCC.

Revised 12.1.13

## GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Appointment Date:** 1/6/2023

**Name of Appointee:** Peter Lawson Jones  
**Address:** 21750 Shaker Blvd  
Shaker Heights, OH 44122  
Cuyahoga County  
(H) – (216) 561-8988  
(W) – (216) 408-7878  
(M) –  
(E) – peterlawsonjones@gmail.com

**Name of Commission:** Ohio Arts Council  
Donna Collins, Executive Director  
Justin Nigro, Operations & Public Affairs Director  
614-728-4445  
30 E. Broad St., 33rd Floor  
Columbus  
(614) 728-4459

**Term Begins:** 7/2/2021  
**Term Ends:** 7/1/2026  
**Party Affiliation:** Democrat  
**Senate Confirmation:** Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate  
**Financial Disclosure:** Confidential disclosure required  
**Vice:** Gary L. Hanson