

Judge Michelle J. Sheehan was a first-generation college and law student. After completing her Orange High School senior year project with Judge Ann Dyke (then serving on the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas) and attorney Jaye Schlachet, she knew she wanted to pursue a career in law. However, having worked up to three jobs at a time in order to be able to attend Miami University and, ultimately, Cleveland State University College of Law (formerly known as Cleveland Marshall College of Law), she knew she needed a mentor and a job to gain legal experience. After Judge Sheehan completed her first year of law school, Judge Dyke (now serving on the Eighth District Court of Appeals) met with her again and helped her obtain a work-study, law-clerk position at (then) Ohio Attorney General Lee Fisher's Office while she also interned for Judge Dyke at the court of appeals.

In the fall of her second year of law school, a fellow student, Brian Goldwasser, recommended that she apply at his father's firm, Reminger & Reminger Co., LPA. Despite proclaiming to be proficient on "Lexus" instead of "Lexis" on her resume, Attorneys Nick Satullo and Pete Marmaros hired her to clerk year-round during her second and third year of law school.

That same fall, she met her future husband, Judge Brendan J. Sheehan. He worked as a bailiff for Judge Donald C. Nugent at the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas and was an evening student at CSU Law. When they first met, Judge (Brendan) Sheehan recommended that she "meet his judge." While unsure what a "bailiff" did or why she should "meet his judge," they met again at the courthouse, dated throughout law school, and married in 1995.

Judge Sheehan litigated at Reminger for over 25 years. She has a special affinity for appellate work, especially after practicing during the "Scott_Pontzer era. Certified as an appellate specialist by the Ohio State Bar Association, she has represented clients in appellate matters before the Ohio Supreme Court, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and almost every appellate district in Ohio.

Judge Sheehan was elected to the Eighth District Court of Appeals in 2018. One of her first priorities was to create an internship program for first-generation students similar to the opportunity that was provided to her. She mentors and works with students as they research and review current appellate

matters, write bench memos, attend various trials and court proceedings, and meet judges and attorneys, among other opportunities. Each internship program is unique to the student's interests and goals. She has mentored almost 100 students during her first term in office.

Judge Sheehan attributes much of her success to CSU Law. CSU Law provided an opportunity that had not previously been available to her blue-collar working-class family. While her parents divorced when she was young, she attributes her work ethic to her father, a tool and die maker despite being born with cleft hands, and to her mother, who worked multiple jobs while raising Judge Sheehan and her two brothers.

Judges Michelle and Brendan have three children: Erin, a current general surgery resident in Ann Arbor, MI, who graduated from University of Toledo Medical School and the Ohio State University; Makayla, a Miami University graduate and graphic designer in the entertainment industry in New York City; and Tim, a Miami University student who will graduate in May 2025 and intends to pursue a career in law.