

Thank you Chief. Steve –thank you for your leadership and service, I certainly will do my best to live up to the high standard my predecessors have set. I want to thank each of you - my judicial colleagues for the honor of serving as the chair of the Ohio Judicial Conference – THE voice of Ohio’s judges- it has even a more special meaning as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

I am proud of you all for the agile and creative ways Ohio’s judiciary has responded to the Covid-19 pandemic. With ever changing rules, guidance, scientific theories and politics Ohio judges have rose to the challenge of resuming court operations to prevent the delay of justice to individuals and businesses. We as judges pressed on despite increasing the exposure of ourselves to Covid 19 in order to maintain the public’s trust that justice would not be delayed nor denied. We are the leaders showing our communities how to function in times of crisis.

In addition to the pandemic we as judges must and are addressing the social unrest taking place across our country and working to identify inequalities and eliminate them in the justice system and, as community leaders, in society in general. As judges we are tasked with ensuring that the effective and efficient administration of justice takes place. That is the heart of the duty of judges. While the law recognizes the importance of equal justice it is up to each of us, Ohio’s judges, to ensure that the constitutional guarantees are applied equally. It is imperative that we the judiciary restore trust, respect and confidence that an equal justice system exists. I am hopeful and confident that we can meet these challenges. I look forward to our having conversations and working together as individuals, and as the embodiment of an institution created to ensure fairness to ALL, to examine ideas and proposals worthy of consideration to ensure access to a fair and effective justice system and that society keeps its faith in the American system of justice. Thank you.