Renee Castellano

Magistrate

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SKILLS

Family Law

Child Support

Protection Orders

Rules of Evidence

Civil Procedure

Docket Management

Legal Research

Legal Writing

Westlaw

Judicial Temperament

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor (J.D.)

05/2015

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

Columbus, OH

Law

CERTIFICATES

Admission to the Ohio Bar

Supreme Court of Ohio

11/2015

Magistrate Orientation Program

Ohio Judicial College

06/2022

SUMMARY

Family law magistrate with 4 years hearing divorce, custody, child support and protection orders, after six years as an assistant prosecuting attorney. Carries a docket of about 1,100 hearings a year and writes decisions that hold up on objection. Admitted to the Ohio Bar since 2015.

EXPERIENCE

Magistrate

03/2022 - Present

Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division — Columbus, OH

Hear contested and uncontested matters referred by two elected judges.

- Conduct about **1,100** hearings a year on divorce, custody, child support and protection orders under the Ohio Rules of Evidence.
- Issue written decisions with findings of fact and conclusions of law, averaging 21 days from final hearing to filing.
- Reduced the pending custody backlog from 340 to 190 cases through tighter docket management and pretrial scheduling orders.
- Decide temporary orders, discovery disputes and civil procedure motions in emergency and ex parte sessions.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

08/2015 - 02/2022

County Prosecutor's Office, Juvenile and Child Support Divisions — Columbus, OH

Represented the state in juvenile delinquency and support enforcement cases.

- Prosecuted 400+ juvenile delinquency and support enforcement cases, including **35** contested trials.
- Wrote appellate briefs on custody and support issues, using Westlaw for legal research, and won 14 of 17 appeals.
- Negotiated payment agreements with parents and defense counsel, collecting $2.3M in back support over six years.
- Trained 8 new prosecutors on legal writing, motion practice and courtroom procedure.