



## EVELYN LUNDBERG STRATTON

Of Counsel [Columbus Office](#)

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### PRACTICE AREAS

Litigation

### EDUCATION

The Ohio State University  
Michael E. Moritz College of Law,  
J.D., 1978

University of Akron, B.A., 1976;  
Honorary Doctor of Law, 1988

Franklin University, Honorary  
Doctorate of Community  
Leadership, 2013

Capital University Law School,  
Honorary Doctor of Laws, 1999

University of Florida, A.A., 1973

### BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Ohio

U.S. District Court for the  
Southern District of Ohio

U.S. Court of Appeals for the  
Sixth Circuit

Eve is of counsel in the Vorys Columbus office. Prior to joining Vorys, she served for 16 years as a justice on the Supreme Court of Ohio and for seven years as a trial judge in the Court of Common Pleas. She counsels clients on variety of practice areas, including appellate issues, litigation and health care.

Eve has decades of trial and appellate experience. She uses this experience to counsel attorneys and law firms throughout Ohio, providing case preparation and trial consultation. This counsel includes offering judicial decision process-observations; case assessment and strategy analysis; the review and analysis of briefs; and the development and presentation of litigation themes. Eve also helps attorneys prepare for trial and oral arguments and assists with mock hearing and trial runs. She was awarded Best Appellate Lawyers of America in the 2017 edition.

Eve spent the first nine years of her legal career as a central Ohio trial lawyer. In 1988, she became the first woman elected judge of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court. She was appointed to the Ohio Supreme Court by Governor George Voinovich in 1996 and was elected by Ohio voters to three six-year terms.

Eve is also a dedicated public servant. While serving on the Ohio Supreme Court, she formed and chaired the Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Mental Illness & the Courts, which since its formation in 2001 has helped establish 38 mental health courts, recommended changes to Medicaid and advocated for a new Juvenile Competency Statute. Currently, she serves with Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine as co-chair of the Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness. Eve has also advocated for the development of veterans' courts, which assist returning veterans with post traumatic stress and other issues that may lead them to criminal activity. In addition, she currently serves as president of the Ohio Military and Veterans Legal Assistance Program a non-profit which connects veterans and military families to a statewide system of referrals to pro bono lawyers, bar associations, legal aid and law school clinics.

Eve's work has resulted in many honors, such as the Congressional Coalition on Adoption's Angels Award, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Adoption Excellence Award and the Ohio State Association of Veterans' Service Commissions Outstanding Service Award. In 2008, she received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Ranking among the nation's most prestigious awards, this honor pays tribute to American citizens of diverse origins for their outstanding contributions to their communities, their nation and the world.

Eve has two awards named in her honor: the Justice Stratton Award for Court Security, which has been awarded yearly since 2004, and the Justice Evelyn Stratton CIT Champion of the Year, which has been awarded yearly since 2012.

VORYS

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Eve is a member of the American, Ohio and Columbus Bar Associations. She is also member of the Ohio and Columbus Bar Foundations and Women Lawyers of Franklin County.

Eve received her J.D. from The Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law. She earned her B.A. and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Akron. Eve also has an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Capital University Law School and an Honorary Doctorate of Community Leadership from Franklin University.

### Insights

"Reforms Would Help Kids Turn Lives Around," *Columbus Dispatch*, March 11, 2017

"Mental Health: No Longer the Hidden Disease," September 26, 2016

"*Client Alert*: Ohio Supreme Court Rules That Board Communication of Any Kind -- Even Email, Texts, or Tweets -- May Constitute a Meeting, Which Could Violate Ohio Open Meetings Act," May 16, 2016

"Shuttering of Mental Hospitals Led to Flood of Mentally Ill into the Legal System," May 1, 2015

"Operation Legal Help Ohio: Ohio Military/Veterans Legal Assistance Project," *Ohio Lawyer*, May 1, 2014

"The Judge's Role As an Agent of Change," *National Law Journal*, March 31, 2014

"Connecting the Dots: Using the Courts and your own Initiative to Navigate the System," *The Attorneys Guide to Defending Veterans in Criminal Court*, March 2014

"Ohio is a Leader in Smart Reforms for Juvenile Justice," *Columbus Dispatch*, October 21, 2013

"Medicaid expansion adds up for Ohio families, taxpayers," *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, March 18, 2013

"Bill would clarify that courts can help deal with mentally ill," February 13, 2013

### Professional and Community Activities

Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness, Co-Chair, 2012-Present

Columbus Council on World Affairs, Board of Trustees, 1990-1999; Honorary Trustee, 1999-Present

Corporation for Supportive Housing, National Board of Trustees, 2005-2013

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Board of Trustees, 1996-2008

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Franklin University, Criminal Justice Advisory Board, 2013-2016

Judges' Leadership Initiative/American Psychiatric Foundation Task Force, 2012-Present

Juvenile Justice Reforms I, II and III, Co-Chair, 2012-2015

National Judges' Criminal Justice/Mental Health Leadership Initiative (JLI), 2004-Present, Co-Chair, 2004-2008

Ohio Community 4 Kids, Co-Chair, 2013-2015

Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, Board of Directors, 2013-present

Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC), Board of Trustees, 1995-Present

Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) Advisory Group, Co-Chair, 2013

Prevent Blindness Ohio, 1988-2003 Chairman of the Board of Trustees, 1999-2001; Honorary Trustee, 2004-Present

Resurrecting Lives Foundation, Vice Chair, 2011-2013; Advisory Board, 2013-Present

Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Mental Illness and the Courts, Chair, 2001-2011

Veterans in the Courts Initiative, Chair, 2009-2013

## Honors and Awards

### National Recognitions

*The Best Lawyers in America*, Appellate Practice, 2017-2018

Congressional Coalition on Adoption, Angels in Adoption Award, 2001

Council of State Governments, Henry Toll Fellow, 2010

International Community Corrections Association, Judicial Award, 2010

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Distinguished Service Award, 2004

National Ethnic Coalition Organization, Ellis Island Medal of Honor, 2008

National Judges' Criminal Justice/Mental Health Leadership Initiative (JLI), Special Recognition, 2008

Prevent Blindness America, Award for Volunteer Leadership, 2000

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Adoption Excellence Award, 2001

### **Trial Practice Awards**

American Board of Trial Advocates (Ohio Chapter), Professionalism Award, 2013

Columbus Bar Association, Judicial Pro Bono Award, 2012

Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys, Public Service Award, 2013

Ohio Senate, Commendation for Service, 2013

Ohio State Bar Association, Ohio Bar Medal Award, 2014

### **Criminal Justice Awards**

Advisory Committee on Specialized Dockets, Ohio Supreme Court, Certificate of Recognition, 2012

Columbus Bar Foundation, Judicial Pro Bono Award, 2012

Corporation for Supportive Housing, Champion of Supportive Housing, Champion Award, 2013

Justice League of Ohio, Model of Justice Award, 2013

Ohio Association for Court Administration, Certificate of Appreciation, 2012

Ohio Bail Agents Association, Appreciation Award, 2008

Ohio Bailiffs and Court Officers Association, Outstanding Achievement Award, 2000;  
Certificate of Recognition, 2012

### **Mental Health Reform Awards**

Columbus Area Inc., Mental Health Advocate Award (Government Sector), 2011

Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation, Compass Award, 2015

National Alliance on Mental Illness - Ohio Chapter, Mental Health Champion Award, 2002;  
Lighting the Candle of Hope for So Many Award, 2014

National Alliance on Mental Illness of Geauga County, Certificate of Appreciation, 2008

Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, President's Award, 2008

Ohio Psychological Association, Award of Excellence, 2012

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## **Veterans Treatment Court Reform Awards**

The Military/Veterans (MILVETS) Educational Foundation, CSM Jake Brewer Leadership Award, 2016

presented its 2016 CSM Jake Brewer Leadership

AMVETS Past State Department Commanders' Civil Servant of the Year Award, 2013

Masonic Franklin County Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Association, Community Service Award, 2013

Ohio National Guard, Certificate of Appreciation, 2011

Ohio Military Reserve Association, Outstanding Service Award, 2008

Ohio State Association of Veterans' Service Commissioners, Outstanding Service Award, 2011

Vietnam Veterans of America, Buckeye State Council, Veterans Advocacy Award, 2010; Distinguished Service Award, 2013

The Psychiatric Society of Central Ohio, Award for Treatment Centered Courts for Veterans, 2010

## **Other Recognitions**

*Best Lawyers 2017*, Spring Edition, "Women of Influence," Best Appellate Columbus Lawyer

Esther H. Brocker Award and Scholarship, 2016

Commonwealth of Kentucky, Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, 2010

Franklin Church, Faith and Freedom Appreciation Award, 2013

LeTourneau Stampede, Girls Goat Tying, 1st Place, 1972

Professional Independent Agents Association of Ohio, Industry Person of the Year, 2013

## **Events**

Westfield Group's Political Action Committee (PAC) Annual Meeting

NAMI Educational Conference

Stepping Up: Practical Solutions for Shutting the Revolving Door of Jail and Mental Illness

Legislative Day Luncheon

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2016 Recovery Conference

National Alliance on Mental Illness Conference

Veterans Treatment Court Conference

Ohio's 2016 Opiate Conference

2016 Chief's In-Service & Annual Conference

Combat Veterans and the Criminal Justice System: Ways to Help Them & Ways to Improve Their Legal Representation

Veterans Wraparound Project

Columbus Veterans Affairs Behavioral Health Summit

The National Loss Team Conference

2014 Annual Conference & Justice Institute

Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas Veterans Treatment Court

Child & Youth Behavioral Leadership Summit

Making the Connection: Veteran Civilian Healthcare Series

North Carolina District Court Judges Fall Conference

Judicial-Psychiatric Leadership Forum

Models for Change Court Leadership Symposium: What Courts Can Do to Improve Juvenile Justice Reform

Ohio Women's Veteran Conference

Law Enforcement Leadership in Juvenile Justice Conference

American Board of Trial Advocates Fall Dinner

Mental Health and Criminal Justice Summit

The Many Faces of Mental Illness Conference

Appellate Strategies and Perspectives