



HON. STEPHANIE CASADY

Court of Appeals, District 06, Position 02

Judge Stephanie Casady is a judge in Saline County. She has served as the President of the Arkansas District Judges Council, the Office of Chief Counsel for the Arkansas Department of Human Services, a deputy prosecuting attorney for Saline County.

How do you define justice?

Justice is fairness for everyone and a system that protects the rights of individuals.

Can you explain your judicial philosophy in plain English?

As a judge for almost 10 years, I respect the constitution and follow the law while treating everyone that comes before me with kindness and respect.

What are the biggest changes you think we need to make to the criminal justice system?

Recent discussions about mental health courts and mental health crisis centers are important steps to making sure people that have mental illness and come in contact with the criminal justice system can get treatment.

What role should money/cash bail play in pretrial release?

Judges should only consider money/cash bail if they don't feel that release on a person's own recognizance is not appropriate for the facts of an individual case.

What role should money/cash bail play in pretrial release?

Judges are elected and charged with the responsibility of following the law as long as the law is constitutional.

Do you believe that policies criminalizing drug use in Arkansas have been effective or ineffective?

Illicit drugs are dangerous. Fentanyl, opioids and other drugs are killing Arkansans every day. Laws criminalizing their manufacture and distribution are important to the safety of Arkansans. There are now programs like drug courts and HOPE courts that aim to get addicts treatment before incarceration is used as an option. I believe these courts and policies that fund and prioritize them are effective.

Do you believe that policies criminalizing drug use in Arkansas have been effective or ineffective?

Poverty is one of the things that puts a person most a risk of entering the criminal justice system. Having access to mental health treatment and drug treatment providers is an important factor in avoiding the criminal justice system. As an elected judge who has presided over 1000s of criminal cases, my decisions with regard to sentencing are based on the severity of the crime and the defendant's criminal history.

What factors do you believe are driving the growing prison population and the overrepresentation of people of color and poor Arkansans? What role do judges play in addressing these disparities?

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In what ways will you work to promote public transparency within your courtroom?

I've been a judge for almost 10 years and I believe a have a reputation of promoting public transparency.

How would you make determinations on fines/fees in your courtroom?

I have been a judge for almost 10 years and that is dependent on the specific case that is in front of me.

Arkansans are facing crushing amounts of court debt, how would you address fines & fees in your jurisdiction?

I've been a judge for almost 10 years and I have a policy of allowing community service instead of fines.

Would you support eliminating the \$10 monthly automation fee? Why or why not?

That fee is imposed by the legislature and can only be eliminated by the legislature.