

JENNY HINES

“A Veteran for Justice”

2135 Spann Lane, Paducah, KY 42003
jennyhinescoa@gmail.com; (270)210-2363

Ben Taylor
Director of Content and Engagement
Commonwealth Policy Center
PO Box 4172
Frankfort, KY 40604-4172
Office: (502) 713-2020
Email: ben@commonwealthpolicy.org

May 17, 2020

Dear First District Voters,

My name is Jenny Hines. I was born and raised in western Kentucky by a Kentucky public school teacher and a U.S. Coast Guard Officer. I graduated from Reidland High School, Murray State University, and the University of Kentucky College of Law. I served as a Security Forces Officer in the U.S. Air Force. Afterward, I returned home to Paducah and practiced law at Boehl, Stopher & Graves, LLP, (“BSG”). While I did significant *pro bono* work at BSG, I longed to return to public service. When the opportunity came to work for Judge—now Justice—Christopher “Shea” Nickell, I was very excited to work for the court. I served as a case manager and staff attorney. I now serve as a staff attorney for Judge Donna Dixon. I did not even realize how passionately I wanted to become a judge until working for these two incredible judges and seeing the difference the Court of Appeals makes. That is why I decided to run for Kentucky Court of Appeals judge.

So, what do I bring to the table and what does my candidacy mean for you?

1. I understand justice. Justice is the fair and impartial adjudication of claims by applying the law to the unique facts of a case. Particularly because this is a nonpartisan race, judicial candidates are called to administer justice without regard to political party affiliation, socio-economic status, or any other impermissible criteria and judge the unique facts of each case by the applicable laws and legal standards. My time in the military impressed upon me a strong sense of equality and highlighted the benefits of how greatly our lives are improved when we all work together to make our world a better place to live.

2. I employ the distinct Western Kentucky practical and common-sense approach to administration of justice. The Court of Appeals is a court of correction. I believe in straight talk and efficiency. In my years working with the Court of Appeals I not only look at each case as a puzzle to solve and reach the right result on, but I realize the beginning and end products

are people with issues that need to be resolved. I recognize it is the court's duty to do so in a clear way that follows the law and makes sense.

I also believe it is our duty to improve the communities and Commonwealth we live in. That is why I actively give back to our communities through professional, civic, and religious organizations. My goal is to leave things better than when I found them.

3. I have on the job training. Since I began working for the Court of Appeals I have been learning exactly what an appellate judge does and how to do it. I have attended Court of Appeals conferences and established great working relationships across the court. I am uniquely qualified and have readily transferrable skills. It has been a great honor, privilege, and joy to work for the Court of Appeals and I look forward to doing so as a judge.

I also have a very conservative judicial philosophy. My approach to drafting opinions for the court is best described as employing a philosophy of judicial restraint. I believe judges must interpret the law strictly rather than making new laws. I do not believe in legislating from the bench. I believe in strict construction. Judges should read the laws, especially including the U.S. Constitution, as written and intended by its authors. However, there are occasional situations which arise that were not contemplated by our founding fathers. Those situations call for a certain amount of extrapolation which should be conducted keeping the principles espoused in the Constitution in mind. I believe judges should follow the Constitutional framers' intent, adapting to current times only as necessary for situations not contemplated by the framers. This applies particularly to areas of technology. Overarching principles, such as the right to privacy, otherwise contemplated by the framers should be applied when possible. I take the laws as I find them, only departing from them in drafting opinions if a particular law is unconstitutional. I believe the Court of Appeals is a court of correction rather than a court of policy, meaning its judges should enforce and uphold the laws as written even if they do not agree with them. My judicial philosophy is most like Justice Clarence Thomas. I admire and desire to emulate Justice Thomas's conservative approach to opinions. I also respect his principles. My conservative nature makes me reluctant to comment on particular cases and whether they represent good or questionable jurisprudence.

So, what does my letter have to do with you? I'm asking for your vote. I hope you recognize we have a lot in common, most importantly common goals of protecting life, public safety, administration of justice, and making our world a better place. Please feel free to check out my website at: <https://jennyhines.net> and/or my Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/175136863839849/?ref=share>.

Thank you so much for your time and interest.

Sincerely,

//s// Jenny Hines
"A Veteran for Justice"