

# The Columbus Dispatch

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## HEARING OVER LICENSE SUSPENSION

### Ex-judge's appeal headed to high court

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THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

How do you handle a former judge like Carole Squire?

Squire, who quotes Scripture and the Ohio Revised Code with equal aplomb through a pair of narrow eyeglasses, is in a fight to save her legal career.

She has said she gives all glory to God in her fight for Franklin County families.

But Tuesday, the Ohio Supreme Court justices will hear why Squire's law license should be suspended after acts of judicial misconduct while on the Franklin County bench. A disciplinary board in March recommended she receive at least a one-year suspension for verbally abusing those who appeared before her and for a pattern of misapplying the law.

She left the ranks of private practice to become an assistant Ohio attorney general and a Domestic Relations Court referee in the mid-90s. She lost a bid for election against former Domestic Court Judge Kay Lias in 1994 and narrowly defeated Republican Harland Hale with 51 percent of the vote in 2000. Hale is now the county Environmental Court judge.

Squire has not been rated highly by lawyer polls in any of her races. A Democrat, she blames a conspiracy fostered by Republican colleagues.

In her unsuccessful re-election bid in November, lawyers voted her "not recommended." It didn't help that in an October interview, she said lawyers drag out divorce cases because they bill by the hour.

Longtime Domestic Court lawyer Jefferson E. Liston acknowledged that many of his colleagues do not want to work with Squire.

"She sees the world from a different perspective and that, I think, interfered with her abilities in the courtroom," Liston said.

County records showed frequent turnover among her staff workers, and her fellow judges had to counsel lawyers who came to them complaining about Squire.

Squires lost in November to Republican Chris Geer, who beat her by more than 13,000 votes. Still, she got more than 109,000 votes in the election as part of a heavily Democratic turnout for the governor's race, despite her political baggage.



Former Judge Carole Squire could lose her law license for a year.

#### THE HOT ISSUE

Should the law license of former Franklin County Judge Carole Squire be suspended?