

Judge Krothe Seeks Re-Election to Monroe Circuit Court Judge Seat V

Judge Kara E. Krothe, who was elected to the bench in 2020, has filed her declaration of candidacy for inclusion on the 2026 Democratic primary ballot.

Judge Krothe grew up in Bloomington, graduating from Bloomington High School North in 1988. She earned her Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Government from Smith College in 1992 and her Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Indiana University School of Law in 2000. After graduating from Smith College, she worked at the Monroe County Voter Registration Office, and Monroe County Clerk's Office. However, it was her work as a court reporter for Judge Randy Bridges in Monroe County Circuit Court Division V that strengthened her interest in the legal system and inspired her to go to law school. After graduating from the Indiana University School of Law, she was sworn in to practice law in November of 2000. Krothe worked for three years in private practice and fifteen years as a Deputy Public Defender in the Monroe County Public Defender's Office before her election to the bench in November 2020.

Judge Krothe has dedicated most of her legal career to public service. As a public defender she represented indigent clients in felony, misdemeanor, juvenile, and Children in Need of Services (CHINS) cases. She handled large caseloads and treated her clients with compassion.

As a judge, Krothe has translated her experience as an attorney into a dedication to upholding the law in a fair and impartial manner. She strives to make the courtroom less intimidating and more responsive for participants, attorneys, and staff involved in the cases that come before her.

The first two years of her tenure as judge were presiding over a caseload that included divorces, protective orders, and evictions. She worked closely with Judge Catherine Stafford and the Housing Eviction Prevention Program to make legal representation and mediation services available to court attendees appearing for eviction hearings.

In 2022, upon the retirement of Judge Stephen Galvin, the Board of Judges reallocated his cases and Judge Krothe moved to Circuit Court VI, where she presides over a civil caseload docket and shares the mental health caseload with Judge Geoffrey Bradley.

Judge Krothe serves on the Civil Benchbook Committee and the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee for the Indiana Judicial Branch. She was recently recognized by the Indiana Supreme Court for acquiring 120 hours of Judicial College credit and was honored with the Indiana Judicial College Certificate at the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference of Indiana.

Judge Krothe served on the Community Justice Response Committee to lend her public defender experience to the problem Monroe County is facing in needing a new jail. Judge Krothe is looking forward to working with the Commissioners and County Council on finding a solution to this pressing need.

Monroe County is losing a judge seat upon the retirement of Judge Valerie Haughton which will increase the caseloads of Monroe County Judges and Judge Krothe is ready to tackle whatever challenges that might entail.

Judge Krothe is asking for your Democratic primary vote on May 5th.

Please contact Judge Krothe at karakrotheforjudge@gmail.com for more information.