

Eric H. Kearney

Cincinnati, Ohio

SUMMARY

Distinguished 25+ year career of service in law, politics, and business. Former Ohio State Senator and Minority Leader. Advocate in Democratic politics at national, state, and local levels including serving on Obama/Biden NFC and Transition Team for Presidential Personnel. Chamber of Commerce President and civic volunteer.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Greater Cincinnati & N. Kentucky African-American Chamber of Commerce **2016 - Present**
CEO/President

- Led substantial re-organization including programmatic implementation, 40% membership increase, and creation of \$300K endowment.
- Created series of programs and accelerators to address the growth phases in a variety of industries in the small business ecosystem.
- Reached over 2,400 entrepreneurs annually through programs, technical assistance, and counseling.

Kearney and Kearney, LPA **2015 - Present**
Partner of Boutique Law Firm

- Providing strategic counsel to non-profits, professional services firms, general contractors, and school systems.

Ohio Senate Minority Leader, 9th District (Cincinnati) **2005 - 2014**
Legislative Highlights as Primary Sponsor

- Ensured the financial viability of Ohio's 5 Public Pension Systems by working with union and business leaders
- Established one of the country's only Adoption Loan Assistance Funds for families preparing to adopt a child.
- Created and led annual 107-mile Walk for Children's Health from Cincinnati to Columbus for 8 years.
- As Minority Leader, reformed Caucus through team building, goal setting, and fundraising milestones.

National Finance Committee: DNC and Obama/Biden **2008, 2012**

Obama/Biden Transition Team: Presidential Personnel **2008**

Sesh Communications **1995 - 2005**
CEO/President; Founded/Built largest African American-owned publishing company in region

- Oversaw operational revenue growth, led 4 acquisitions, and founded 3 publications.
- Publishes *The Cincinnati Herald*, *The Northern Kentucky Herald*, *The Dayton Defender*.

Cohen, Todd, Kite & Stanford, LLC **1994 - 2001**
Partner in leading Cincinnati law firm

- Lead counsel in federal and state court handling commercial and business litigation.
- Advised clients including banks, privately-held companies, and non-profits
- Served as U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee adjudicating personal bankruptcy cases in various Chapters of the Bankruptcy Code.

Strauss & Troy, LLP **1989 - 1994**
Attorney

- Attorney with major Cincinnati law firm. Practice concentrated on commercial and business litigation representing primarily banks and small businesses.

Fernald II Workers Settlement Fund **1994 - Present**
Trustee

- Special Master/Trustee of \$20 Million complex litigation settlement in *Day v. NLO*, U.S. District Court. Oversaw the processing of over 3,000 workers' claims and awards. Continue to maintain annual physical medical examination program for workers.

EDUCATION

University of Cincinnati, College of Law 1989

- President, Student Bar Association

Dartmouth College 1985

- A.B., English
- President, Casque & Gauntlet Senior Honor Society
- Language Study Abroad (Arles, France)

Additional Education

- University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business – “Directors’ Consortium” Board of Directors for Public/Private Corporations (2005)
- University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School – “Building A Business Case” (2000)
- University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business – “Directors’ College” (2000)
- Federal Bureau of Investigations – “Citizens’ Academy” (1999)

CORPORATE BOARDS

- Arlington Memorial Gardens, Board of Directors
- Union Savings Bank, Board of Directors

CURRENT COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Andrew Jergens Family Foundation, Board of Trustees
- Cincinnati Art Museum, Board of Trustees
- Contemporary Art Center, Board of Trustees
- Health Collaborative, Board of Trustees and Executive Committee
- Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, Board of Trustees
- Mayerson Academy, Board of Trustees
- Ohio Citizens for the Arts, Board of Trustees

REPORTED CASES / ARTICLES

- *Perfect is the Enemy of Fair: An Analysis of Election Day Error in Ohio’s 2012 General Election*, 62 Cleve. St. L. Rev. 279 (2014)
- *WDIA v. McGraw-Hill*, 34 F. Supp.2d 612 (S.D. OH 1998)
- *Kruse v. Cincinnati*, 142 F.3d 907 (6th Cir. 1998)
- *Ohio Ass’n of Independent Schools v. Goff*, 92 F.3d 419 (6th Cir. 1996)
- *Miyazawa v. Cincinnati*, 825 F. Supp. 816 (S.D. OH 1993), 45 F.3d 126 (6th Cir. 1994)
- *Sterne v. Hamilton Cty Bd. Of Elections*, 67 Ohio St. 3d 605 (1993)

AWARDS

- Champion for Children, Center for Closing the Health Gap & Cincinnati Children’s Hospital
- Cincinnati Business Courier Top 40 Under 40 Business Leaders
- Cincinnati Business Courier, 2nd Act Honoree
- Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Cincinnati, College of Law
- Elected Official of the Year, Ohio State Medical Association
- U.S. District Court Ohio Attorney Service Award
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Joseph A. Hall Award for Promoting Diversity

PERSONAL

Licensed: United States Supreme Court; Ohio Supreme Court; and United States District Court, Southern District

Hobbies: Tennis, Squash, Fly Fishing, and Running (Completed 8 Marathons)

Family: Wife (Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Esq., Cincinnati City Councilmember) and two children

Media Profile: Mitchell, A. (2019, February 11). Eric Kearney Is Cincinnati's Connector in Chief. <https://www.cincinnatiimagazine.com/citywiseblog/eric-kearney-is-cincinnati-connector-in-chief/>