

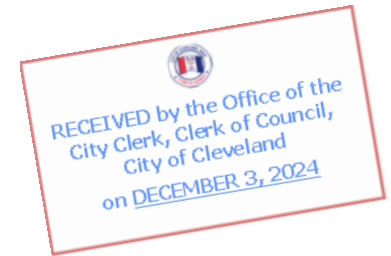


## City of Cleveland

Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

### Office of the Mayor

Cleveland City Hall  
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 202  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
216/664-3990 • Fax 216/420-8766  
[www.cleveland-oh.gov](http://www.cleveland-oh.gov)



December 3, 2024

Hazel G. Remesch, Esq.  
812 Huron Road East, Suite 880  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Ms. Remesch,

Thank you for expressing your interest in serving on the City of Cleveland's Fair Housing Board. I am pleased to inform you of your appointment to the board, pending approval by Cleveland City Council effective January 1, 2025. Your term will be automatically renewed for January 2026 and conclude on December 31, 2028.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Ryan Puente, Chief Government Affairs Officer, at (216) 664-3544 or via email at [rpunkte@clevelandohio.gov](mailto:rpunkte@clevelandohio.gov).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to promoting fair housing in Cleveland.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin M. Bibb".

**Justin M. Bibb**  
Mayor | City of Cleveland

**HAZEL GUTIERREZ REMESCH**  
*(She/Her/Ella)*

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**EXPERIENCE**

**Enterprise Community Partners, Cleveland, OH**

*Director, State and Local Policy*

*April 2023 – Present*

- Support the Ohio VP, Market Leader in all matters necessary for the effective operation and integration of the Ohio market team, including program and financial reports, internal and external communications, implementing and managing leadership vision and direction, board and partner meetings and special projects.
- Develop and implement the Ohio market's policy priorities, working closely with key members of the Ohio team, as well as external partners, elected officials, and coalitions.
- Interact with Enterprise's National State and Local Policy team, which includes other market-based staff focused on local state and local policy efforts across the nation.

**The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH**

*Managing Attorney*

*August 2021 – April 2023*

*Supervising Attorney*

*January 2016 – August 2021*

*Senior Attorney*

*December 2013 – January 2016*

*Staff Attorney*

*May 2008 – December 2013*

**Litigation**

- Represented residents and groups that are low income in all stages of complex civil litigation, concentrating on landlord tenant law, including evictions, terminations, and fair housing violations.
- Represented low-income residents in Northeast Ohio, concentrating on consumer, domestic relations, and tax issues (until 2014).
- Chaired the Litigation Committee (until 2020), a resource in litigation issues for all Legal Aid staff.
- Handled a high volume and fast paced caseload.

**Management**

- Managed the staff and operations of the housing practice group, including the supervision of eight paralegals, seven supervising attorneys and fourteen staff/ senior attorneys.
- Developed a system for processing all housing intakes in a five-county service area.
- Served on various hiring committees and onboarded new staff.
- Created substantive and practice training protocol and manuals for new staff.
- Executed, with a committee, the implementation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan.
- Participated in the development of a five-year strategic plan for the organization.
- Developed a reorganization plan for the housing group, for continued sustainable growth.

**Right to Counsel Program Development and Implementation**

- Led advocacy for Right to Counsel in Cleveland – legal representation for tenants facing eviction.
- Advocacy includes drafting of the ordinance, program development, city wide implementation, and community education.
- Partnered with public and private sources to sustain the program's annual budget of \$2.9 million.
- Increased legal representation for tenants from 1% to 20% in the first year of the program.
- Worked with an independent evaluator to develop metrics and an evaluation to demonstrate the return on investment and efficacy of the program.
- Developed an outreach and communications plan for the program.

**Local and National Advocacy**

- Submitted comments and advocated for changes with local courts on issues impacting vulnerable populations.
- Worked with various partners on the development of rent assistance programs.

- Submitted public comments to local housing authorities on their annual plans.
- Advocated for policy change with the Ohio Finance Agency for the allocation of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits in particular neighborhoods.
- Advocated for tenants on Cuyahoga County's Fair Housing Working Group around policies to affirmatively further fair housing, including mobility programs under subsidized housing programs.
- Participated in a Community Planning to develop a plan to end youth and young adult homelessness under HUD's Demonstration Program.
- Member of the National Coalition for Civil Right to Counsel Steering Committee.
- Expert panel for the Evaluation of the Eviction Protection Grant Program Study by HUD.

### **Trainings and Presentations**

- Media: Various national and local appearances as an expert on housing issues and access to justice.
- Presentations: Various presentations including, but not limited to the following
  - Cleveland City Council and Cuyahoga County council testimony about housing instability, homelessness, neighborhood impact and right to counsel.
  - Cleveland Leadership Center: Housing instability in Cleveland.
  - National Legal Aid Defenders Association: Presentations on Right to Counsel.
  - National League of Cities: Eviction Prevention and Right to Counsel, opening remarks by the United States White House; Eviction Prevention Learning Lab presenter.
  - United States White House: Eviction Reform Summit.
  - Cleveland Federal Reserve FedTalk: Making Sense of Eviction Trends.
- Trainings:
  - National Institute for Trial Advocacy: Training legal services lawyers from across the nation.
  - Cuyahoga County Public Defenders' office: Housing law.

### **Butler Pappas Weihmuller Katz Craig, LLP., Miami, FL**

*Associate*

*February – April 2008*

- Insurance defense litigation with emphasis on third party liability defense, third party liability coverage and uninsured motorist coverage issues.

### **Oramas & Associates, P.A., Coral Gables, FL**

*Associate*

*September 2006 – February 2008*

- Represented major insurance carriers in all aspects of construction and insurance defense litigation with emphasis on the defense of architects, engineers, and surveyors.
- Litigated complex cases, including legal research, preparation of all motions, pleadings, discovery, depositions, attended hearings, mediation, and trials.
- Organized and prepared full mediation and arbitration presentations.
- Handled all pre-claim matters in full, including responding to notice of claims, attending site inspections, consulting with experts, and conferring with all parties.

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

- Claude E. Clarke Award for outstanding service and commitment, 2012.
- Legal Aid Leadership Award for outstanding staff leadership, 2016.
- Cleveland City Champion, The Plain Dealer and Guardian, 2020.
- Professionalism Award, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, 2020.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

#### **The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH**

*The Innovation Mission Fellow*

*November 2017 – June 2019*

- Fellowship awarded to five recipients in Cleveland to explore ideas to fight poverty. Lead advocacy to establish a right to counsel in housing cases, as part of this fellowship.

#### **Cleveland Tenants Organization, Cleveland, OH**

Member, Board of Directors

June 2015 – 2018

- Assist the organization in the wrap up of services upon closure.
- Develop and monitor Cleveland Tenant's Organization programs and support and supervise the executive director.

## EDUCATION

### **St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami, FL**

Juris Doctorate, May 2006

*Honors:* Merit Scholarship Award, Spring 2004 - Fall, 2006  
Recipient, Best Student Award: Rule of Law Seminar

*Activities:* Volunteer at Legal Services of Greater Miami

### **Florida International University, Miami, FL**

Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice: December 2002

**Languages:** Native Spanish speaker.

## MEMBERSHIPS

- Florida State Bar, September 2006
- Ohio State Bar, November 2008
- United States Tax Court
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- National Institute Trial Advocacy, Faculty Member
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association