

MICHAEL DYLAN BRENNAN

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CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, University Heights, Ohio ***Mayor and Safety Director***

2018-present

Chief executive and administrative officer in an historic first suburb of Cuyahoga County. Established city's first economic development department. Managed successful application for CDBG funding for pedestrian improvements in Cedar-Green district. Created city-wide Community Reinvestment Area, leading to new home construction and new additions to existing homes. Reformed fire department, including installation of a new chief responsible for bringing over \$1m in grant funding to the city, together with acquisition of a new ladder truck and ambulance, and other reforms leading to improved ISO classification for department. Oversaw the implementation of the city's Office of Community Policing, and established a citizens committee to work with the police on updating use-of-force and de-escalation policies. Championed legislation modernizing the city's approach in housing, including: updating demolition permit process; empowering the building commissioner to require foreclosing banks to bring houses up to code; depoliticizing the Board of Zoning Appeals by removing elected officials from the hearing and appeal processes; empowering the city prosecutor to appear in housing court on behalf of the city; encouraging city prosecutor to obtain administrative search warrants to inspect vacant properties and seek demolition funding; allowing permits for backyard chicken coops with appropriate regulations; requiring landlords to pay delinquent real estate taxes or enter into payment plans with the county as a condition of renting property in the city; reconvening the city's Fair Housing Commission to remedy unlawful discrimination in housing. Sponsored and signed into law nondiscrimination ordinance as to LGBTQIA+ individuals as to housing, employment, public accommodations. Sponsored and signed into law legislation strengthening prohibition of "source of income" discrimination in housing. Reformed the City Beautiful Commission into a Community Improvement Corporation that worked with a developer for the city's first new housing development since the 1970's, "South Taylor Place Condominiums" (groundbreaking later in 2021). Built the city's first two miles of bike lanes. Won grant for Electric Vehicle Charging station at City Hall (construction TBA). Reorganized city Finance Department and implemented best practices, such as establishing city's first formal reserve policy, resulting in a clean audit for 2019 and an anticipated clean audit of 2020. Initiated solid waste study (completed), municipal facilities study (underway), and zoning code update (initiated). Ongoing coordination with all stakeholders of the redevelopment of University Square shopping center. Transformed city newsletter into e-news; raised city's profile on social media. Work is ongoing and progress continues.

Serves on the following boards in connection with serving as mayor: Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), Board Member, Finance and Audit Committee (Committee Chairperson) Planning and Programming Committee (Committee Member); Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Board Member; Heights Hillcrest Communications Center Board of Trustees, Chair; Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) Suburban Council of Governments, Secretary; Northeast Ohio Mayors & City Managers Association, Executive Committee 2021; Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium; Suburban Water Council of Governments.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE:

THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL DYLAN BRENNAN, LLC, Cleveland, Ohio

2009-2018

Owner and Managing Attorney

Litigation attorney in a general practice that emphasized employment discrimination claims, consumer rights, and civil rights claims. Counselor to businesses and non-profit organizations for contract issues and employment issues, including non-competition and confidentiality agreements. Seminar speaker on trial skills, motion practice, tenant rights, evidence.

HERMANN, CAHN & SCHNEIDER, LLP, Cleveland, Ohio

2003-2009

Senior Associate; Associate

Litigation attorney with responsibilities that extended through all stages of representation, including trial and appellate proceedings. Trial experience both as lead counsel and as second chair, with favorable verdicts or settlements reached. Practice areas included: insurance defense (motor vehicle, premises liability, products liability), insurance coverage issues and insurance bad faith defense; plaintiffs' personal injury and medical malpractice litigation, including wrongful death and catastrophic injury cases; legal malpractice litigation; business law and litigation, including contract disputes, creditor representation in bankruptcy and collections; employment law, including non-competition agreements and wrongful termination claims.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, Cleveland, Ohio

1999-2003

Judicial Staff Attorney for The Honorable Kathleen Ann Sutula

Advised and assisted the judge on all civil cases on her docket. Cases included declaratory judgment and insurance cases, contract disputes and business litigation, class actions, administrative appeals, employment issues from non-competes to wrongful termination, personal injury and workers' compensation, and special proceedings. Conducted legal research, prepared recommendations on motions, and drafted opinions and orders, as well as assisted in conducting case management conferences and pre-trials.

WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A., Cleveland, Ohio

1997-1999

Associate

Litigated commercial law and consumer collections cases in state and federal courts. Successfully defended or reached favorable settlements in cases involving consumer claims. Courtroom experience included first chair jury trial experience, bench trials and arbitrations.

DAN MORELL & ASSOCIATES CO., L.P.A., Independence, Ohio

1995-1997

Associate; Law Clerk

Effectively handled small business and corporate matters, commercial and consumer collections, probate matters and residential real estate transactions.

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE AND ACTIVITIES:

CLEVELAND CHAMBER CHOIR

2018-present

Board Member and Secretary. Serving the musical arts community by supporting a local chorale ensemble with a varied repertoire of music, including music by contemporary and local composers.

FUTUREHEIGHTS

2016-2017

Board Member. Served on the board of a community advocacy group promoting Cleveland Heights and University Heights as ideal places to live, work, and play, while serving on both the Civic Engagement committee and the Music Hop event committee for annual local independent music event in Cleveland Heights.

CITIZENS FOR SAYBROOK PARK / CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

2013-2014

Volunteer. Participated in the citizen grassroots effort to support the acquisition of property for purposes of building a new community park in University Heights, and review design concepts for the new park.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

2007

Delegated. Selected by Judge Kathleen Ann Sutula to attend the conference and participate in committees to improve the justice system in Cuyahoga County.

LAKE ERIE INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CORP. (LEIMUN) **2000-present**
Chairman of the Board; Founding Trustee; Treasurer; Advisor/Consultant. Founded and managed a nonprofit corporation that organizes and administers Model United Nations conferences.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, DC **Spring 1996**
Environment and Natural Resources Division, General Litigation Section Law Intern. Conducted legal research and wrote memoranda and briefs on environmental issues in cases pending throughout the United States and her territories. Constructed legal arguments on matters of first impression.

CONGRESSMAN ERIC D. FINGERHUT, District Office **1994**
Congressional Intern. Fielded constituent telephone calls. Conducted research on issues pending before Congress. Handled constituent case files regarding social security and passports. Drafted correspondence.

EDUCATION:

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Juris Doctor, 1996
Class Standing: Top 25%
G.P.A. 3.20/4.00
Cleveland State Law Review, Business Editor
Student Bar Association, Vice President
Honor Code Committee, Student Representative

Bowling Green State University, Bachelor of Arts, 1993, Political Science, Philosophy (minor)
G.P.A. 3.50/4.00
The BG News, Editorial Columnist
Undergraduate Student Government, Senator
Omicron Delta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha honoraries

BAR ADMISSION:

State of Ohio, 1996; United States District Court, Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio; United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio; admitted *pro hac vice* to additional state and federal jurisdictions on select cases.

PERSONAL:

Resident of University Heights 1998-2000, 2005-present.
Married, Gina L. Ventre; Two cats, Lola and Biggie.
Musician, sports fan, foodie, terrible golfer.