

S.D. Ohio and E.D. Michigan Judges' Conflicts Based on University Employment

Judges who are adjunct professors at The Ohio State University or University of Michigan and who have presided over cases in which their employer(s) were a party are listed below. This list is meant to be used as an example and likely does not cover every single OSU or U-M case heard by these judges over the years.

Terence P. Kemp (ret.)

Judge Terence P. Kemp (S.D. Ohio, magistrate, 1987-2017) did not attend Ohio State University, but he was an active adjunct professor at the OSU Moritz College of Law from at least 2011-2017 (the period in which he filed financial disclosures listing income as an adjunct professor). During this time, Kemp oversaw the following cases in which OSU has been a party:

1. [Reed v. Ohio State University Medical Center, 2:12-cv-00241](#). Civil Rights (Jobs). Plaintiff dismissed after settlement mediation scheduled. No recusal.
2. [Hill v. The Ohio State University T&L, 2:12-cv-00984](#). Copyright infringement. Defendant successfully motioned to dismiss. Judge Algenon Marbley recused (dkt no. 1), Kemp did not.
3. [Martens v. The Ohio State University Medical Center, 2:12-cv-00456](#). Civil Rights (Jobs). Plaintiff dismissed with prejudice. Marbley recused (dkt. no. 2), Kemp did not.
4. [The Ohio State University v. Teespring, Inc., 2:14-cv-00397](#). Trademark Infringement. Also involved Watson. Ohio State won injunction against company violating trademark. Magistrate Judge Norah McCann King recused (dkt. no. 3). Watson and Kemp did not.

Kemp continues to preside over some cases as a recalled magistrate judge.

Judge Algenon Marbley

Judge Marbley (S.D. Ohio) did not attend Ohio State but has been an adjunct professor at OSU Law since 2000. Although he recused in half a dozen OSU cases when he was on the school's Board of Trustees (2007-2014), he has recused himself from at least [one case](#) in 2015 after his Board service ended. Otherwise, he has overseen the following cases in which OSU has been a party:

1. [Miles v. Ohio State University Medical Center, 2:04-cv-00646](#). Job discrimination. Case dismissed without prejudice for failure to show cause. No recusal.
2. [Barnett v. Ohio State University Medical Center, 2:05-cv-00684](#). FMLA complaint. Stipulated order of dismissal. No recusal.
3. [EEOC v. The Ohio State University, 2:20-cv-04624](#). Job discrimination. Judgment in favor of OSU. No recusal.
4. [Bryant v. Ohio State University, 2:22-cv-01966](#). Job discrimination. Case voluntarily dismissed. No recusal.

5. [SOLIS v. The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, 2:23-cv-01390](#). Job discrimination. Defendant (OSU) granted summary judgment. No recusal.
6. [Aarnes v. Ohio State University, 2:24-cv-02146](#). Job discrimination. In progress. No recusal.

It should be noted that in Jan. 2024, Marbley [was inducted](#) into OSU's Office for Diversity and Inclusion Hall of Fame, receiving the honor at the same time he was overseeing cases involving OSU as a party.

Judge Edmund Sargus

Judge Sargus (S.D. Ohio) did not attend Ohio State has been an adjunct professor at OSU Law since 2005. He recused himself from several cases that involved OSU as a party; [here](#) is one example (Doe v. The Ohio State University, 2:23-cv-03566). Although Sargus recused himself in that case, his double-colleague, Judge Michael Watson did not. Sargus has overseen the following cases in which OSU has been a party:

1. [Doe v. The Ohio State University, 2:19-cv-01054](#). Education Civil Rights. Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed. No recusal.
2. [Shelton v. Ohio State University Medical Center, 2:06-cv-00878](#). Prisoner Civil Rights. Plaintiff dismissed claims against OSU without prejudice for lack of jurisdiction. No recusal.
3. [Faure v. The Ohio State University, 2:19-cv-01949](#). Civil Rights/Jobs case. Case was dismissed. No recusal.

Judge Chelsey Vascura

Judge Vascura (S.D. Ohio, magistrate) graduated from OSU Law in 2003. She is an active adjunct professor at OSU. She has served as a magistrate judge since 2016. During her period as both a magistrate judge and an adjunct at OSU Law, Vascura has overseen the following cases in which OSU has been a party:

1. [Oliver v. The Ohio State University, 2:15-cv-02474](#). Employment discrimination. Dismissed without prejudice by OSU. No recusal.
2. [Doe v. The Ohio State University, 2:15-cv-02830](#). Civil rights. Plaintiff successfully motioned for summary judgment. Judge Algenon L. Marbley recused (2:15-cv-02830, dkt. no. 77); Vascura did not.
3. [Doe v. The Ohio State University, 2:16-cv-00171](#). Civil rights. Settled and dismissed with prejudice. No recusal.
4. [Nixon v. The Ohio State University Medical Center East, 2:17-cv-00085](#). Job discrimination. OSU granted motion to dismiss without prejudice. Judge Marbley recused (2:17-cv-00085; dkt. no. 2); Vascura did not although she should have.
5. [The Ohio State University v. Redbubble, Inc., 2:17-cv-01092](#). OSU sued Redbubble for trademark infringement. OSU dismissed case with prejudice. No recusal.
6. [Tsipursky v. The Ohio State University, 2:18-cv-00753](#). Labor complaint. Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed. No recusal.

7. [Doe v. The Ohio State University, 2:19-cv-01054](#). Civil Rights. Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed. No recusal.
8. [Faure v. The Ohio State University, 2:19-cv-01949](#). Civil rights. Dismissed. No recusal.
9. [Huang v. Ohio State University, 2:19-cv-01976](#). Job discrimination. Ongoing. Plaintiff motioned for recusal; was overruled. Vascura remains on the case.
10. [Kessling v. Ohio State University, 2:20-cv-01719](#). Job discrimination. Went to jury trial, dismissed. No recusal.
11. [Hughes v. The Ohio State University, 2:20-cv-02222](#). Job discrimination. Vascura denied summary judgment for plaintiff, appointed a mediator and terminated case. No recusal.
12. [Hanson, M.D. v. The Ohio State University Student Health Services, 2:20-cv-04005](#). Civil rights. Plaintiff dismissed. No recusal.
13. [Chaudhry v. The Ohio State University, 2:20-cv-05070](#). Civil rights. Granted defendant's motion to dismiss. No recusal.
14. [Murria v. The Ohio State University, 2:21-cv-05892](#). Civil rights. Dismissed with prejudice by plaintiff. No recusal.
15. [Kuntz v. The Ohio State University, 2:22-cv-01811](#). Civil rights. Dismissed. No recusal.
16. [Free State of Bavaria, represented by The University of Wurzburg v. The Ohio State University, 2:22-cv-02580](#). Breach of contract. The German state of Bavaria sued OSU. The case remains in progress. No recusal.
17. [Tipton v. Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, 2:22-cv-02854-SDM-CMV](#). Prisoner rights. Vascura dismissed case for plaintiff's failure to state claim. No recusal.
18. [Jawad v. The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, 2:22-cv-03904](#). Job discrimination. Dismissed. No recusal.

It should be noted that Vascura [won an award](#) from OSU Law at the same time (Oct. 2023) that she was overseeing cases that involved OSU as a party.

Judge Michael Watson

Judge Watson (S.D. Ohio) has an undergraduate degree from Ohio State and is [currently](#) an adjunct professor at OSU Law. During his tenure as a judge, Watson has overseen the following cases in which OSU has been a party:

1. [Minturn v. The Ohio State University, 2:10-cv-00396](#). Employment discrimination. Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed. No recusal.
2. [Hammill v. The Ohio State University, 2:10-cv-00666](#). Employment discrimination case. Dismissed with prejudice by OSU. Judge Edmund Sargus [recused](#); Watson did not.

3. [Backs v. The Ohio State University Medical Center, 2:11-cv-00242](#). Labor complaint. Parties agreed to dismiss. Judge Norah McCann (magistrate judge) recused (2:11-cv-00242, dkt. no. 3); Watson did not.
4. [Ohio State University Medical Center v. Honda Transmission Manufacturing of America, Inc. Health and Welfare Benefit Plan, 2:11-cv-00792](#). Labor complaint. Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed. No recusal.
5. [Kapoor v. The Ohio State University, 2:13-cv-00810](#). Employment discrimination. Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed. No recusal.
6. [The Ohio State University v. Woodbury, 2:13-cv-00989](#). OSU sued a company for IP infringement. Settled with injunction. No recusal.
7. [The Ohio State University v. Teespring, Inc., 2:14-cv-00397](#). OSU sued a company for IP infringement. Settled. Judge Norah McCann (magistrate judge) recused (2:14-cv-00397, dkt. no. 3); Watson did not.
8. [Oliver v. The Ohio State University, 2:15-cv-02474](#). Employment discrimination. Dismissed without prejudice by OSU. No recusal.
9. [The Ohio State University v. New Par, 2:15-cv-02866](#). Breach of contract dispute. Dismissed. Three other judges — Algenon Marbley (dkt. no. 4), Sargus (dkt. no. 5) and James Graham (dkt. no. 8) — recused; Watson did not.
10. [The Ohio State University v. Cafepress, Inc., 2:16-cv-01052](#). OSU sued a company for IP infringement. Settled and dismissed by OSU. Judge Sargus recused (2:16-cv-01052, dkt. no. 3); Watson did not.
11. [The Ohio State University v. SunFrog, LLC, 2:17-cv-00229](#). OSU sued a company for IP infringement. Watson issued injunction. No recusal.
12. [The Ohio State University v. Lamp Apparel, LLC, 2:17-cv-00516](#). OSU sued a company for IP infringement. Watson issued injunction. No recusal.
13. [Wilder v. The Ohio State University Medical Center, 2:17-cv-00920](#). Employment discrimination. Settled. No recusal.
14. [Tsipursky v. The Ohio State University, 2:18-cv-00753](#). Labor complaint. Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed. No recusal.
15. [Chaudhry v. The Ohio State University, 2:20-cv-05070](#). Civil Rights. Defendant (OSU) successfully motioned to dismiss for failure to state a claim. No recusal.
16. [Daniels v. Ohio State University Physicians, Inc., 2:20-cv-05859](#). Labor complaint. Settled. No recusal.
17. [Sullivan v. The Ohio State University, 2:23-cv-03174](#). Civil rights. In progress. No recusal.

18. [Jane Doe v. The Ohio State University, 2:23-cv-03566](#). Civil rights. This one was filed in 2023 and remains in progress. Judge Sargus recused (2:23-cv-03566, dkt. no. 2); Watson did not.

Cases involving a former OSU doctor accused of decades of harassment, Richard Strauss, over which Watson was or is presiding:

1. 2:18-cv-00692-MHW-EPD [Garrett et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
2. 2:18-cv-00712-MHW-EPD [Doe v. Ohio State University et al](#)
3. 2:18-cv-00736-MHW-EPD [Snyder-Hill et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
4. 2:19-cv-01911-MHW-EPD [Doe M.B. et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
5. 2:19-cv-02237-MHW-EPD [Disabato et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
6. 2:19-cv-02429-MHW-EPD [Heifferon v. Ohio State University](#)
7. 2:19-cv-02462-MHW-EPD [Nutter et al v. The Ohio State University](#) (plaintiffs filed a [motion for recusal](#) against Judge Watson, dkt. no. 52; Watson denied the motion).
8. 2:19-cv-03165-MHW-EPD [Does 37-66 v. The Ohio State University](#)
9. 2:19-cv-04397-MHW-EPD [Does 67-87 v. The Ohio State University](#)
10. 2:19-cv-04433-MHW-EPD [Doe v. The Ohio State University](#) (plaintiff filed a motion for recusal against Judge Watson; Watson denied the motion). (dkt. nos. 36-38)
11. 2:19-cv-04441-MHW-EPD [Roehlig et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
12. 2:19-cv-04624-MHW-EPD [Does 88-94 v. The Ohio State University](#)
13. 2:19-cv-04634-MHW-EPD [Beaudin et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
14. 2:19-cv-04746-MHW-EPD [Ratliff v. The Ohio State University](#)
15. 2:19-cv-04902-MHW-EPD [Khalil et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
16. 2:19-cv-05272-MHW-EPD [Chrystal et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
17. 2:19-cv-05418-MHW-EPD [S.DL. v. The Ohio State University](#)
18. 2:19-cv-05551-MHW-EPD [de Jong et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
19. 2:20-cv-01188-MHW-EPD [John Does 140-150 v. The Ohio State University](#)
20. 2:20-cv-01385-MHW-EPD [Doe 67-87 v. The Ohio State University](#)
21. 2:20-cv-01429-MHW-EPD [Doe v. The Ohio State University](#)
22. 2:20-cv-01551-MHW-EPD [Vazquez, Jr. et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
23. 2:20-cv-01649-MHW-EPD [Does 85-88 v. The Ohio State University](#)
24. 2:20-cv-02008-MHW-EPD [Doe 32 v. The Ohio State University](#)
25. 2:20-cv-02574-MHW-EPD [Doe 2 v. The Ohio State University](#)
26. 2:20-cv-03817-MHW-EPD [John Does 151-166 v. The Ohio State University](#)
27. 2:20-cv-04657-MHW-EPD [John Does 167-171 v. The Ohio State University](#)
28. 2:21-cv-02120-MHW-EPD [Shavers et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
29. 2:21-cv-02121-MHW-EPD [John Does 172-191 et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
30. 2:21-cv-02527-MHW-EPD [John Does 192-217 v. The Ohio State University](#)
31. 2:21-cv-02542-MHW-EPD [Alf et al v. The Ohio State University](#) (a motion for recusal was filed but denied by Judge Watson). (Docket #16-17)
32. 2:21-cv-02562-MHW-EPD [Canales et al v. The Ohio State University](#) (plaintiff [filed a motion for recusal](#) against Judge Watson; Watson denied the motion).
33. 2:21-cv-03838-MHW-EPD [Moxley et al v. The Ohio State University](#)
34. 2:21-cv-04254-MHW-EPD [Doe v. The Ohio State University](#)
35. 2:21-cv-04340-MHW-EPD [John Does 218-223 v. The Ohio State University](#)
36. 2:21-cv-04766-MHW-EPD [Doe v. The Ohio State University](#)
37. 2:21-cv-04920-MHW-EPD [John Does 224-225 v. The Ohio State University](#)

38. 2:23-cv-01048-MHW-EPD	Doe v. The Ohio State University
39. 2:23-cv-02991-MHW-EPD	Doe 162 et al v. The Ohio State University
40. 2:23-cv-02993-MHW-EPD	Snyder-Hill v. The Ohio State University
41. 2:23-cv-02994-MHW-EPD	Knight et al v. The Ohio State University
42. 2:23-cv-03051-MHW-EPD	Gonzales et al. v. The Ohio State University

Judge Judith Levy

Judge Levy (E.D. Michigan) has undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Michigan. Per a law school spokesperson: “Judge Levy has not taught at Michigan Law since 2019, so the financials are accurate,” i.e., that she has not earned money from U-M since 2019, but “she remains in our stable of possible adjunct professors for future semesters.” Levy has overseen the following case in which Michigan has been a party:

1. [Pryor v. University of Michigan, 5:24-cv-10176](#). Civil rights. Ongoing. No recusal.