

Sara J. Harper

Sara Juanita Harper received her undergraduate and law degrees from Case Western Reserve University. Her legal career included periods in private practice, as a Cleveland Prosecutor, and as an Assistant Director of Law. In 1970 she ran unsuccessfully for the House of Representatives. Additionally, she served on the judiciary of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, attaining the rank of Major.

As president of the Cleveland NAACP in the early 1980s, Harper fought against strip searches by police of female NAACP members who were arrested for minor traffic infractions, and co-founded the first victims' rights program in the country.

She was appointed to the bench of municipal court by Governor James A. Rhodes in 1970 to fill an unexpired term. She was successfully elected to an additional term. Resigning her seat, she was replaced by her husband George Trumbo. Later Harper would run successfully for another seat, which she would also leave prematurely, having been elected to the 8th District Court of Appeals.

Sara J. Harper served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 14, 1971 to March 12, 1982, and again from January 1, 1986 to February 11, 1991.

