

Terre L Vandervoort

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, May 1990

Ohio State University Law School

Joseph M. Harter Memorial Award - for highest grade in trial practice class

Moot Court - Best brief in group

B.S. Business Administration/Organizational Management, May 1987

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

Graduated Cum Laude - 3.5/4.0 G.P.A.

Beta Gamma Sigma top 10% of business majors

Vice President, Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority

Lancaster High School, 1980-1983

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Sitterley and Vandervoort 1990 - 1992

Provided felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile defense work. Specialized in probate work, corporations, and real estate.

Assistant City Prosecutor 1992 - 1996

Provided all aspects of misdemeanor prosecution and appellate work.

Law Director and City Prosecutor 1996 - 2013

Provide criminal prosecution to Fairfield County on over 2000 misdemeanor cases per year as well as full civil representation to the City of Lancaster, Boards, and City Council in all areas including Employment, Probate, Environmental, Contract, and litigation services.

Fairfield County Probate & Juvenile Judge 2013 - present

Preside over probate and juvenile matters in Fairfield County

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

National Domestic Violence Training, National College of District Attorneys, Williamsburg, VA 1992

Attended at own travel expense due to need to improve Fairfield County's handling of domestic violence cases

Investigation & Prosecution of child Sexual Abuse, American Prosecutor's Research Institute, 1992

Crash Investigation, Ohio State Highway Patrol

Prosecuting Attorney's Short Course, Northwestern Law School, 1995

Drug Interdiction for Judges & Prosecutors, Ohio State Highway Patrol 1996

Law Enforcement Conference, Attorney General's Law Enforcement Conference, 1997

Criminal Patrol for Judges & Prosecutors, Ohio State Highway Patrol 2002

Three Days in May, Attorney General's Office, numerous years

Advanced Detection, Apprehension, and Prosecution of Drunk Drivers, Ohio State Highway Patrol 1993, 1996, and 2006

Beyond the Silence, 2008, child interviewing techniques.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Ohio State Bar Association

Fairfield County Bar Association

BAR ADMISSIONS

Ohio Supreme Court

Federal District Court, Southern District of Ohio

US Supreme Court

PREVIOUS CRIMINAL EXPERIENCE

Length of Experience

- 1990 – 1992 Criminal defense work including felonies, juvenile, and misdemeanors
- 1992 – 1996 Assistant City Prosecutor
- 1996 – Present Lancaster City Law Director & City Prosecutor

Juvenile Defense Work

Provided court appointed representation to juveniles charged with violent and non violent crimes with a focus on obtaining outcomes supporting rehabilitation.

Felony Defense Work

Provided court appointed representation to felony suspects of violent and non violent offenses.

Scope of Criminal Prosecution

The Lancaster City Law Director and Prosecutor's Office prosecutes all misdemeanor cases in Fairfield County with the exception of Mayors' Courts. The charges I prosecuted include OVI, (drunk driving), Domestic Violence, Vehicular Homicide, Assault, Child Enticement, Driving Under Suspension, Fleeing and Eluding, Child Endangering, Theft, and drug offenses.

Volume of Cases

The volume of cases I handled exceeded 2000 active cases per year with approximately 800 OVI (drunk driving) cases and 500 Domestic Violence cases. Overall, I have personally prosecuted 5,000 criminal cases and overseen the prosecution of over 40,000 criminal cases. With this volume, I had to develop efficient policies and procedures to ensure effective, responsive prosecution.

Criminal Philosophy

"I believe the criminal justice system should be consistent and predictable, so as to gain the confidence of defendants, law enforcement, practitioners, victims of crime, and the community as a whole. The system must react consistently to individuals regardless of stature, position, race, religion, social, or economic standing. All men and women are created equal in the eyes of the law and the laws should be equally applied to them."

"The criminal justice system must also perform in an efficient manner so as to save tax payers, defendants, attorneys, victims, and the public both time and money. Communication is critical from the Court to assist both the prosecution and defense in determining best outcomes."

Courtroom Experience

I have tried hundreds of suppression hearings, hundreds of trials, countless jury trials, written briefs, argued appellate cases, and prepared motions before the Ohio Supreme Court. I have 20 years of experience before the Fairfield County Municipal Court, Fairfield County Common Pleas Court, Fifth District Court of Appeals, and the Ohio Supreme Court, involving felony and misdemeanor charges.

Drug Prosecution

I fully partnered with the Major Crimes Unit to support their efforts at drug interdiction in Fairfield County. I filed hundreds of drug offenses to support the Major Crimes Unit and local law enforcement. I filed nuisance complaints against local businesses selling drugs in Lancaster successfully closing those businesses

OVI Prosecution

Since I began prosecuting in Fairfield County in 1992, I received numerous accolades for my successful prosecution efforts against drunk drivers. I consistently maintained one of the highest conviction rates in the State of Ohio and I consistently trained prosecutors to maintain this posture.

Domestic Violence Task Force

In 1992, I noted the system wide failure to effectively handle Domestic Violence cases in Fairfield County. I brought together all law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and system providers to establish policies and procedures which focus on consistency, intervention, and accountability. I formed and chaired the Fairfield County Domestic Violence Task Force and successfully adopted the Fairfield County Domestic Violence Protocol which delineates the responsibilities of law enforcement, prosecutors, and the court system.

Victims of Crime Public Policy Leadership Award 1995

Selected from 12,000 statewide nominations, I was honored to be recognized as an individual whose policy making created improved services for victims of crime in the State of Ohio. Former Chief Justice Moyer of the Ohio Supreme Court had this to say concerning my efforts: "Vandervoort was selected as an award recipient because of her work specifically with family violence, which emphasized not only perpetrator accountability but victim safety. Vandervoort has used the dynamics of domestic violence to enhance victim safety in the courtroom, strengthen communications with law enforcement and prosecute these crimes with the seriousness they deserve. Vandervoort was instrumental in developing a sexual abuse protocol for use in the municipal court, and she has taken an active personal role in raising awareness of domestic violence victimization through speaking engagements, special events, and donations."

Legislative Testimony

As Prosecutor, I testified before the Ohio Legislature to get civil protection orders for victims of stalking based on a local case involving a minor female stalked by a non related neighbor. My changes were passed into law protecting all non related stalking victims in the State of Ohio.

I also testified before the Senate on issues related to OVI and sex offender registration promoting increased safety and statewide consistency.

PREVIOUS CIVIL EXPERIENCE

Probate Law

In private practice, I focused on all aspects of estate administration including preparation and filing of probate administration forms, accountings, and release from administration forms. I was also associated with the establishment and administration of trusts. In my role as Law Director, I continued my probate work as I dealt with matters of contested exhumation of bodies from city cemeteries, acquisition of property from trusts without living administrators, matters surrounding guardianships for individuals causing harm to themselves or others, as well as emergency guardianships for at risk elders. My work on behalf of elders resulted in the formation of County wide collaborative task force focused on providing wrap around services to at risk seniors which has prevented ongoing physical abuse and saved seniors tens of thousands of dollars from theft.

Employment Law

I represented the city in legal issues involving employment and union matters such as grievances, discipline, termination, FMLA, workers compensation, unemployment, hiring practices, sexual harassment, and drug testing. I wrote many of the policies of employment for the city and was an advocate of the importance of progressive discipline and appropriate documentation within the city.

Environmental Law

Upon becoming law director, I took over the legal work for the city's landfill litigation at a cost savings of over \$100,000.00. I worked with the Water and Water Pollution Control Department on issues with the Ohio EPA and the OWDA concerning matters of compliance, permits, and reporting. Three grants were successfully written addressing and correcting environmental issues totaling more than \$750,000 resulting in savings to the rate payers.

Townships

My responsibilities with the city covered issues of code enforcement and zoning within the townships of Fairfield County. I have worked with the trustees and other community leaders to help streamline their administrative processes to ensure more effective procedures for their citizens. I conducted free training for the trustees, villages, and their inspectors to share my experiences.

Construction Law

A major area of exposure within the city was the lack of consistency in our management of large construction contracts and projects within the city departments. I worked to develop a standard set of bid documents which afforded the greatest protection to the city and its constituents. I conducted multiple trainings for all city departments in policies, procedures, and pitfalls in construction projects so as to prevent the collapse of projects, which resulted in better, more cost effective projects.

Sexually Oriented Businesses

I implemented the first regulatory legislation for adult businesses in Fairfield County, along with a new companion zoning piece which afforded the maximum restrictions on adult businesses while meeting the numerous constitutional tests in this area of the law. Avoiding the negative secondary effects of adult businesses, such as crime, prostitution, and drug trafficking, was a major goal of mine.

Development Issues

I worked to establish development agreements with surrounding townships to enable the city to expand its tax base while not depriving townships of their critical tax base. Agreements with prospective developers were initiated by me to allow the developers to up front infrastructure improvement costs sparing the city's general fund while protecting revenue streams for the schools and townships.

Building Department

I initiated and successfully implemented the city building department to allow local plan review, which had previously been handled through the State of Ohio. The city is now equipped to enforce building codes on commercial buildings and prosecute those who jeopardize public safety in a local, timely manner. Previously, matters referred to the state by my office were summarily rejected leaving the city without recourse.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement was a major impetus of my office, with the establishment of a code enforcement officer and a code enforcement protocol for the city. I standardized forms, updated the Lancaster Codes, and trained city departments on proper procedures for violations affording a quicker response to public complaints. A junk car ordinance I drafted with companion protocol resulted in over 300 junk cars being removed from the city.

Zoning

The City Zoning Task Force updated the City's 1939 Zoning Code with a complex code modeled after Tulsa, Oklahoma. Within a year it became obvious from the public complaints that the process was severely flawed and was creating too many delays. After intense scrutiny of the process, I oversaw a rework of the code reducing it by 40 pages, almost in half, and reducing the review time by four weeks.

Brownfield's

The city successfully obtained a highly coveted 2.9 million dollar Clean Ohio Brownfield's Grant to clean up the Anchor Hocking Plant 2 property. The grant was jeopardized by litigation which I successfully mediated a resolution which kept the grant moving forward.

Public Records

I created a public records policy for the city and provide bi-annual training for employees, department heads, and all countywide public officials.

Collections

My office collected over \$150,000.00 for city departments in funds owed to the city for damages, unpaid fees, and unpaid income tax.

Cable Contract

I oversaw the renegotiation of the City cable contract ensuring the creation of a local access channel allowing the broadcast of City Council and the creation of LSN.

Investment Committee

As a member of the Investment Board for the city, I partnered with the city administration on modernizing the City's investment portfolio resulting in an increase in interest rate which initially enhanced the general fund by \$250,000.00 within 12 months.

Administration & Support

A major part of my role as law director was my relationship with the administration and city council. I was with eight different city councils and two different mayors. I maintained positive relationships with all entities at all times as this was a priority to provide maximum services to the community.

MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

City Prosecutor's Office Manager 1992-1995

Upon arriving at the Lancaster City Prosecutor's Office in 1992, I was horrified to find that my office had one phone, one typewriter, and no filing system to handle over two thousand cases a year. Officers were not provided with current case status, forcing officers to come in even though the case was long finished, costing taxpayers thousands in overtime expenses each year. In response to the problems that I observed, I asked to be appointed office manager by the Law Director at the time to expedite changes. I put the office online for current case status saving over \$100,000 in overtime in just the first year and a half.

Revamping Public Image of Office

When I became prosecutor, the prosecutor's office had a weak public image and was inaccessible to the public and law enforcement. Complaints included unanswered phones and too many cases reduced or dismissed.

Restructuring

Upon becoming Law Director, I phased in all full time attorneys whom were not permitted to maintain a private practice. This structure maximized the value for taxpayers and focused my legal staff's attentions entirely on government work. I also merged the civil and criminal offices providing centralized services and creating more efficient use of tax dollars...

Focus on Efficiency and Accountability

I audited files and procedures regularly to assure best practices were utilized. High volume can increase errors, so I structure procedures with as many checks and balances as possible.

Policy Making

I made it a priority to develop written policies, protocols, and public information materials wherever possible in an effort to provide guidance, information, and structure to the community. Some of these items are as follows:

"No Drop" Policy

In response to best practice, I initiated a "no drop" policy for domestic violence charges preventing dismissal at the request of the victim. The State of Ohio proceeded with the case utilizing the victim as a witness, thus removing the victim as the responsible party for the prosecution.

Utilization of Mediation

In an effort to reduce case loads, I supported the use of mediation for bad check cases, outstanding videos, and some health code violations to see if a resolution could be obtained, short of filing criminal charges.

Annexations Policy

I worked to create an Annexation Packet which included the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and city protocols. This extensive packet was provided to all Fairfield County attorneys and was available to the public.

Public Outreach

I provided training, information, and speakers to civic groups on a wide range of topics from civil issues to criminal issues. .

Staff Education

I conducted yearly trainings to both administrative and legal staff members to maintain efficiency and a progressive approach. I trained my administrative staff on phone etiquette, hostile clients, crisis intervention, and customer service. My legal staff was trained on protocol, and provided a notebook with guidelines and critical court information, and I set high expectation for efficient and effective provision of services.

Collaboration

I firmly believe that collaboration of agencies results in stronger more responsive government. Collaborations that I spearheaded include:

Code Enforcement

I meet with all enforcement officers once a month to work cases involving property violations in the city including fire, building and code enforcement.

Elder Abuse

I meet with all service providers to work on cases involving abused, neglected, and exploited senior citizens.

Domestic Violence/SANE

I meet monthly to enhance services to victims of domestic violence and their children. A sexual assault protocol created with law enforcement and FMC was initiated prior to my leaving the office.

Child Advocacy Center

I had my Victim Services Coordinator meet with the Child Advocacy Center Multidisciplinary Team each week for critical cases involving children and families.

Law Enforcement Training

My office was the county leader in law enforcement training on wide ranging issues including OVI, domestic violence, and search and seizure.

I took a leadership role in providing six eight hour trainings in 2008 and 2009 to county law enforcement as mandated by OPOTA at no cost reducing department overtime expenses for over 200 officers.

GRANTS I HAVE OBTAINED

I was a proponent to expand city services by personally writing grants for needed personnel and equipment since 1992. To date, I have acquired over \$5,000,000 in Federal, state, and private funds for our community for items including:

<u>Criminal Prosecution Grants</u>	<u>Grant Totals</u>
Family Violence Prosecution	\$1,188,000
PRC Victim Assistance	\$50,000
<u>Lancaster City Bike Trail</u>	
Current grant total	\$2,000,000
<u>Flood Prevention</u>	
Wetland Acquisition	\$250,000
Waterway Preservation	\$250,000
<u>Safe Routes to Schools</u>	
For 8 schools	\$1,500,000
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	\$5,238,000

LECTURE EXPERIENCE

Drunk Driving Legislative Update, September 1993

Created materials, coordinated with all law enforcement agencies, and presented to over 100 county law enforcement officers over four classes.

MADD Court Advocate Training Seminar, 1994

Spoke, along with County Prosecutor David Landefeld, on the role the prosecutor plays in the legal system. The course provided training to victim advocates who support and educate families who have suffered injury or loss as a result of a drunk driver.

Domestic Violence Training Seminar for Law Enforcement, June 30, 1995

Pursuant to House Bill 385, I held numerous training sessions for law enforcement. Seminars were tailored towards street officers, as well as supervisors utilizing the statewide preferred arrest policies.

Domestic Violence Training for Fairfield County Bar Association, March 28, 1996

Presented a two hour training for local attorneys on Domestic Violence and House Bill 385.

Attorney General's Violence Against Women Seminar, July 28-29, 1997

Presented a two hour session on "effective domestic violence prosecution" for statewide prosecutors and police officers.

Prosecutor's Law Enforcement Training, June 26, 1998

General Topics were presented for local law enforcement

Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce, 1998

Presented "How Domestic Violence affects the work place" to local business owners

Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, January, 1999

Presented a two hour Domestic Violence Training Seminar to over one hundred local law enforcement officers in Fairfield County on the Domestic Violence Protocol and current legal trends in the area.

Ohio Public Health Association, March 4, 1999

Presented to over seventy-five public health professionals from across Ohio focusing on Domestic Violence Protocol development and the benefits to the community.

OCOSA/ODVN Justice Institute, April 30, 1999

Presented a two hour victim advocate training session on the Criminal Justice System & Domestic Violence focusing on how to assist victims in the complicated criminal system.

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Justice Institute Part 2, April 1999

Presented on "Successful Prosecution" at a one day training sponsored by Ohio Domestic Violence Network for advocates.

Domestic Violence & Prevention Workshop, September 1999

Spoke along with Sarah Buel, nationally recognized expert in Domestic Violence, on effective prosecution

Legal Issues for Senior Women, March, 1999

Encouraged women of all ages to develop financial and legal strategies.

Caseworkers and Domestic Violence, March, 1999

Presented to social workers in Fairfield County

Zoning Litigation, 1999

Presented to township zoning enforcement and what is needed to prosecute these cases

Child Care Providers, 1999

Presented on domestic violence awareness

Youth Training, 1999

Discussed career awareness for Fairfield Union, Lancaster High School, and Rushville

Running Start, 1999

Participated in a Reading Program and its benefits

Ohio Public Health Association, 1999

Presented on domestic violence as a public health priority.

Hocking County Law Enforcement Training, February 2000

Presented to Logan, Ohio and Hocking County law enforcement officers on instituting a domestic violence protocol including proper case investigation and victim intervention.

Hocking County Law Enforcement Training, 2000

Provided protocol training for law enforcement officers in Hocking County.

Fairfield County Law Enforcement Training, 2001 & 2002

Provided protocol training for law enforcement officers in Fairfield County.

Seneca County Domestic Violence Training, 2002

Provided training to over 100 law enforcement officers throughout the State of Ohio.

Domestic Violence Prosecution, September 2002

Presented on "How it all should work"

Water Distributor Workshop, December 2002 & March 2003

Presented on safety concerns and prosecution options with fire hydrant tampering.

Pickerington Police Department Law Enforcement Training, 2004

Focused on issues of successful intervention and prosecution

Law Enforcement Response to Elder Victimization, April 2005

Focused on elder abuse and the need for intervention

Prosecutor Training on Domestic Violence, 2005

Trained prosecutors in the Law Director's Office on domestic violence

Even Start Program, April 2005

Presented on the affects of Domestic Violence on children

Health Care Providers and Domestic Violence, October 2005

Presented to Fairfield Medical Center emergency room workers and police department

Quarterly Law Enforcement Training, March 2006

Presented on general topics for county law enforcement

Mandated OPOTA Fairfield County Training, 2007

Provided three sessions of eight hour trainings for 250 Fairfield County Law Enforcement officers at no cost in order to fulfill state mandate.

Mandated OPOTA Fairfield County Training, 2008

Provided two six hour training sessions for Fairfield County Law Enforcement officers at no cost to fulfill state requirements.

Child Advocacy Fairfield County Leadership Forum, 2008/Present

Worked with Child Advocacy Center Executive Committee to develop and conduct eight sessions for 25 mid level managers focusing on the systems surrounding child abuse cases and fostering leadership skills.

Lancaster Police Department Citizens Police Academy, 2011

Presented on perils of witnesses to crime and presented a module on Domestic Violence

AWARDS

Mary Burnham Heartline to the Community Award, 1993

Presented by the Black Interest Group for pro bono work on the Allen Chapel litigation.

Victims of Crime Public Policy Leadership Award, 1995

Selected from 12,000 nominations, the award stated:

“Vandervoort was selected as an award recipient because of her work specifically with family violence, which emphasized not only perpetrator accountability but victim safety. Vandervoort has used the dynamics of domestic violence to enhance victim safety in the courtroom, strengthen communications with law enforcement and prosecute these crimes with the seriousness they deserve. Vandervoort was instrumental in developing a sexual abuse protocol for use in the municipal court, and she has taken an active personal role in raising awareness of domestic violence victimization through speaking engagements, special events, and donations.”

Community Service Award, 1999

Presented by the Fairfield County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service Providers “For dedication to improving services to domestic violence and other crimes.”

Most Notable Women of Fairfield County

Eagle Gazette, January 1, 2000

Government Attorney of the Year, 2006

Ohio State Bar Foundation

Presented to a government attorney whose community services went above and beyond his/her own position has created a positive impact on their community.

Pearl of the Park, 2010

Presented for my work on the Lancaster City Bike Trail project.

Patriotic Employer, 2011

Presented by the Ohio National Guard for support of my employee soldier serving overseas.

Friend of Adoption, 2013

Presented by Fairfield County Child Protective Services for my support of National Adoption Day 2013 where I finalized adoptions for 12 children in a special Saturday Court session.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Child Advocacy Center of Fairfield County

Served as President and founding task force member for this facility offering wrap around services including forensic interviews, medical exams in partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital, and counseling and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and their families with over 200 children served per year.

Helping Hooves

Provided pro bono legal services to this therapeutic riding program for disabled children.

Lighthouse

Served on the Board of Directors for the Lighthouse Shelter for Battered Women from 1992 – 1999 serving as the Policy and Procedure Chairman.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Volunteer

Provided mentoring for a 14 year old girl placed with her grandfather.

Fairfield County Domestic Violence Task Force

Initiated and chaired this countywide Domestic Violence Task Force. I organized all literature, meetings, speakers, as well as applied for grants to fund the project. I was awarded the 1995 Victims of Crime Public Policy Leadership Award for my work on this project.

Action for Healthy Kids

Targeted the need to educate children on healthy lifestyle choices such as smoking, obesity, dental, hygiene, and emotional health. I helped host the first fun day on the bike trail with over 25 county agencies, fire departments, police bike patrol, and local businesses setting up booths along the trail drawing over 100 children.

Soccer Coach

Coached 7 year olds for Lancaster Parks and Recreation league.

Fairfield County Community Corrections Board

Served as President and Vice President focusing on acquisition of grants to improve the community's response to individuals committing criminal offenses.

Preservation of Allen Chapel

Provided pro bono legal services - In 1990 the Allen Chapel, built by the African American Community in Lancaster in the 1880's and first school to its children due to segregation, was abruptly put up for sale. I was approached by the congregation to halt the sale and place control of the church back in the hands of the remaining members. My case was successful at trial and on appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court. While litigating the case, my apartment was broken into and my legal file was stolen resulting in the conviction of 3 people. I received the Mary Burhnam Heartline to the Community Award for my work.

Volunteer Bike Trail Project manager

Provided planning and legal advice to city bike trail project over 10 years and have written grants for the city totaling \$2,000,000.00 for the trail which encircles the city with over eight miles of paved trails for our families connecting schools, parks, and community facilities.

TWIG 14, 1995 – present

Provided support to Fairfield Medical Center.

Advisory Committee for Local Law Enforcement Block Grant

Worked to oversee the distribution of Federal grant monies to county law enforcement agencies.

Fairfield County Bar Association Free Legal Clinic

Volunteered, along with my entire staff of attorneys to staff the February legal clinic for the last several years providing free legal assistance to community members