

## JUDGE TERRE L. VANDERVOORT



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**Terre L. Vandervoort** has served as Fairfield County Juvenile and Probate Court Judge since August 2013, when she was appointed by Governor John Kasich. Judge Vandervoort graduated from Lancaster High School; Miami University, Cum Laude, with a degree in Organizational Management; and Ohio State University Law School, after which she spent two years in private practice before joining the Lancaster City Prosecutor's Office.

Judge Vandervoort served 20 years as the first elected female prosecutor in her community. She was concerned about the systemic failure of the judicial system in its response to women and children victimized by domestic violence and sexual abuse and thus assembled service providers, law enforcement agencies and others to develop the Fairfield County Domestic Violence Protocol.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Vandervoort undertook a long list of initiatives and activities in areas of public safety, including testifying before the Ohio House of Representatives about civil protection order statutes, courtroom safety for victims, securing grant funding for a Family Violence Unit, creation of a summit to bridge the gap between courts and the mental health system, establishing a “no drop” policy for domestic violence cases, and forming a task force to develop seamless services to child victims of violence and their families.

Judge Vandervoort was awarded the Ohio Victims of Crime Public Policy Leadership Award, presented by the Late Chief Justice Moyer of the Ohio Supreme Court, as well as the Outstanding Public Service Award by the Ohio State Bar Foundation.

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Since taking the bench in 2013, Judge Vandervoort has developed guiding principles for the Court centering Court decision-making on evidence-based models focused on public safety and the reduction of recidivism in juveniles. Judge Vandervoort developed the first County diversion program for juvenile nonviolent first-time offenders.

Additional new programs under Judge Vandervoort's guidance include a drop-in Assessment Center assisting the community in response to at-risk youth, Mentoring Services, a preventive Community Request for Services program, and Cyber Safety Education.

Judge Vandervoort has done extensive Court-wide training through the University of Cincinnati's Corrections Institute to implement best practice models and is constantly on the lookout for new programming options.

In 2019, Judge Vandervoort established one of the first Guardianship Service Boards outside of Franklin County. Case managers employed by the GSB (as opposed to Court-appointed attorneys) are able to provide three times as many care hours to Fairfield County's vulnerable incompetent population.

Judge Vandervoort is a mother of two adult sons. She loves running and yoga and is starting to write her first children's book.