

The Honorable Van Blanchard II

Judge Van Blanchard II received his bachelor's degree and Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State University and was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1986.

Judge Blanchard served as an assistant prosecuting attorney for Coshocton County for ten years, assistant public defender for the Coshocton County Public Defender's Office, and as staff attorney for the United States Treasury. Judge Blanchard practiced law in the private sector for 26 years until he was appointed to the judgeship by Governor John Kasich in December 2011 to fill a court vacancy created by the passing of Judge David W. Burns. In November 2012, Judge Blanchard was elected to serve out the remainder of Burns' unexpired term and was re-elected to the Coshocton County Court of Common Pleas Probate/Juvenile Division in 2014, winning a new term that expires on February 8, 2021.

Judge Blanchard is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association as well as the Coshocton County Bar Association, where he served as the president from July 2008 until July 2010. Additionally, he currently serves on the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges Law and Procedure Committee, Ohio Association of Probate Court Judges Law and Procedure Committee, as well as the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Rules of Superintendence. Judge Blanchard has remained active with the Juvenile and Probate Judges Associations in Ohio and also attends the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Conference each year to stay informed on best practices for juvenile courts.

In the past few years, the Court has developed a reputation for pursuing many promising practices, including operating 2 specialized docket drug court programs, participation in a state pilot project to improve child welfare case engagement, and benefited from enhanced case management systems with Supreme Court of Ohio Technology Grant Funds. In addition, local training for Guardians and establishment of a Pro-Se Legal Clinic has allowed for better access to the court and service to the public.

Among others locally, he is a member of the Leadership Coshocton County Board, the Coshocton County Public Defenders Commission, Coshocton County Fatherhood Initiative and also works with Hospice of Coshocton County and the Boy Scouts of America. Judge Blanchard also developed and continues to coach local high school mock trial teams.