

Coshocton Tribune

COSHOCTON COUNTY

Jason Given appointed to court

County prosecutor takes bench from Van Blanchard on May 1



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COSHOCTON – The Office of Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced Friday that Jason Given of Coshocton has been appointed to judge of the Coshocton County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile and Probate Division.

The current Coshocton County Prosecutor will take the bench on May 1 and must run for election to retain the seat in the November 2024 general election.

Given replaces Van Blanchard II who is retiring from the bench after being appointed in November 2011 upon the death of Judge David Burns.

Given said he considers Burns, Blanchard and previous judge C. Fenning Pierce as mentors. Given started out as an assistant prosecutor in the juvenile and probate court and has always had an affinity for it.

"I thought it would be a good way to continue to serve the community," Given said on wanting to be judge. "I also think, at times, inside elected offices, things of that nature, it's necessary to have some change. Change is good and we all need new challenges. It's certainly going to be a challenge, but one I'm excited to dive into."

Given doesn't look at this time to make any major overhauls of the court with policy or personnel. He wants to take the position and figure out what he can bring to it with his experience and personality.

"You have a very good staff there. A lot of them have been there for a long, long time. They know how that court works. To go in there and automatically start upsetting the apple cart and make a bunch of changes, I don't think is good practice from a management standpoint," Given said. "Once I get the lay of the land, so to speak, and once we do we'll get the team

together and say what are we doing that's really good right now and what can we do that will make us even better."

Given started practicing law as an associate with the law firm Leech, Scherbel & Peddicord. Later in 2009, he was named partner at the law firm, which was renamed Leech, Scherbel, Peddicord & Given. Given also served for eight years as assistant Coshocton County prosecuting attorney. In 2011, he assumed elected office as the Coshocton County prosecuting attorney. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Capital University Law School in 2001.

Given is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association, Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, National District Attorneys Association and is an Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellow. He is a recipient of the 2012 Statewide Community Service Award for Attorneys 40 and Under and the 2012 Coshocton County Young Leader of the Year Award. In his community, Given is a member of the Coshocton Rotary Club and a board member for Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices and the Sacred Heart Foundation.

Given said it would be up to the Coshocton County Commissioners to appoint a new interim prosecutor by May 1 with the Coshocton County Republican Party then approving someone to finish the current term, which ends in 2024.