

Judge David E. Stucki Judge Jim D. James Judge Michael L. Howard	
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Stark County Family Court Senior Judge David E. Stucki today announced that he has submitted his letter of resignation to Governor John R. Kasich effective May 1, 2011. Judge Stucki, who is serving his 19th year as a Family Court Judge, stated, “I have decided to resign as a Family Court judge due to increasing family responsibilities and increasing national responsibilities.” He added, “It has been a privilege and honor to serve in the Stark County Family Court, which is nationally recognized as a ‘Court of Significance’ ”. The reputation of this court is a tribute to its dedicated employees who work hard every day to protect our community’s most precious resources—our children and families. It has been a high calling to serve as judge and to work with them.”

Judge Stucki has been elected secretary of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and will become president of that organization in 2013. He also chairs the NCJFCJ national legislative and membership committees. He currently serves as acting Chair of the Ohio Governor’s Council on Juvenile Justice and on numerous state committees related to the judiciary and especially the juvenile justice system. He represents Ohio on the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and serves on the Global Advisory Committee through the U.S. Justice Department. Judge Stucki is an ex officio member of the Interstate Commission for Juveniles and previously served as president of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges. These responsibilities provide a unique opportunity for Judge Stucki to advocate for the children and families of Ohio on a national level.

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Family Court Administrator Richard DeHeer, who has served throughout the judge's 19-year tenure said, "Judge Stucki has been an energetic and tireless worker. He hit the Court running in 1993, and never stopped. His challenge to the employees of the court has become reality as he has asked that we all work to become a "Court of Significance".

Judge Michael Howard pointed out that "As the senior judge at Stark County Family Court, Judge Stucki established an atmosphere that fostered creativity and led to the development of innovative programs for youth that have been recognized both state-wide and nationally." During Judge Stucki's tenure Family Court has developed and instituted a number of highly respected, award winning programs designed to help youth and their families.

Among them are Teen Court which operates as a diversion program in cooperation with area high schools and the United Way of Greater Stark County; the nationally recognized Parent Project designed to provide support for families coming to the attention of the court; Working Together for Kids, created to help unmarried parents dealing with companionship issues and begun with a Sisters of Charity foundation grant; and Work Connections established in partnership with local agencies to provide case managers who work with community partners to provide tutoring, occupational skill training and employment opportunities to court-involved youth.

Reflecting upon Judge Stucki's accomplishments, Family Court Judge Jim D. James stated, "The Family Court and Stark County have greatly benefited from Judge Stucki's leadership statewide and nationally. His top positions with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Governor's Council on Juvenile Justice and Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges have enabled him to bring innovative and best practice programs from across the country to the court." Prior to his appointment to the bench by then-Governor George Voinovich in 1992, Judge Stucki, who was in private practice, also served as the Wilmot Village solicitor and the Westark Village prosecutor. He is a graduate of the University of Akron and the University of Akron School of Law. He and his wife have three children.

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As Court Administrator DeHeer reacted to Judge Stucki's news he shared, "It is not very often that you can say you have had a boss who was demanding yet fair, serious yet fun. I am fortunate to have had that experience. Judge Stucki is someone with whom I could discuss the complexity of families, and with whom I could play softball or snow ski. Most importantly, I can call him a friend."

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