

Judge Anthony Capizzi
Montgomery County Juvenile Court
Dayton, OH

Judge Capizzi serves as a Montgomery County Juvenile Court Judge, a position he was first elected to in 2004. From 1998-2002, he served as an Acting Judge for Dayton Municipal Court. Judge Capizzi, known as a workaholic, remains enthusiastic and energetic about working to promote the welfare of children, as has been his trademark throughout his legal career.

Judge Capizzi received his B.A. from Saint Bonaventure University in 1976 and his J.D. from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1979. He was admitted to the Ohio and Federal Bars in 1979. Judge Capizzi graduated from Leadership Dayton in 1989.

Judge Capizzi serves on the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Judicial College, as Chair of the Ohio Juvenile Judges Curriculum Committee, and as Past President of the Ohio Juvenile Court Judges Association. The Ohio Supreme Court continues to appoint Judge Capizzi to serve on advisory committees and special judicial assignments in other Ohio Counties.

Nationally, Judge Capizzi serves as a Director of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Association ("NCJFCJ"). He was elected Treasurer of the NCJFCJ on July 5, 2014, and serves on the Executive Committee and the NCJFCJ's Juvenile Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance Project Advisory Committee. He has over the last seven years served as Chairman of the Audit Committee, Vice-Chair of the Juvenile and Family Law Advisory Committee and Audit Committee. In addition, Judge Capizzi served as a member of the Executive Committee's Guiding Coalition, Finance, Governance, Legislative and Diversity Committees. He has also served as faculty member at multiple NCJFCJ conferences.

Judge Capizzi serves as a Judicial Fellow for the National Reclaiming Futures Project based at Portland State University. He also supervises the judicial training of all Reclaiming Future Judges nationally.

From 2005–2014, Judge Capizzi served as a member of the United States Department of Justice's Global Justice Information Sharing Committee. In that capacity, he served as a member of the Global Executive Steering Committee and Chair of the Privacy and Information Quality Working Group and as Chair of the Corrections Management and Reentry Task Team.

Judge Capizzi co-authored an article entitled *A Model for Judicial Leadership, Juvenile and Family Court Journal, Summer 2006, Vol.57, and No.3*, which addresses the role of judges in communities' responses to juvenile substance abuse concerns. In addition, he authored *What You Need to Know About Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Protections for Courts, Future Trends in State Courts, 2012*, published by the National Center for State Courts.

Judge Capizzi lectures at state and national conferences focusing on judicial leadership, juvenile drug courts and substance abuse, alternative/differential responses in dependency cases, the role and responsibilities of guardians ad litem, privacy, and mental health issues.

Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Capizzi maintained a full-time law practice for over 25 years, specializing in juvenile law, family law, and litigation. When he retired from private practice, he had been a partner for over 16 years at the law firm of Harker, Capizzi, & Hall.

Over the last 35 years, Judge Capizzi has held leadership positions in various government, civic and professional organizations that focus on family and children's issues. He served as a City of Dayton Commissioner from 1986-1998; as the President of Neighborhoods, USA; and as the Chairman of the Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee of the National League of Cities.

Judge Capizzi and his wife, Leigh Ann, reside in Centerville, Ohio.

Additional Accomplishments:

Judge Capizzi took over Juvenile Drug Court in 2005 and revamped and expanded the program. In 2014, through Judge Capizzi's leadership, Juvenile Drug Court received a SAMHSA grant of \$975,000 to expand availability of treatment to include in-home therapy for youth and their families. His drug court now serves 125 youth and their families. Judge Capizzi speaks at churches county-wide about the Reclaiming Futures Program to encourage mentors to become involved with the youth in Juvenile Court.

Under Judge Capizzi's guidance, Montgomery County Juvenile Drug Court has become a model program in the state of Ohio. Judge Capizzi mentors other judges with drug courts within the state and educates and offers support to Judges in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Kentucky, North Carolina, Illinois, California, Washington, Oregon and New Mexico. Judge Capizzi has helped educate and instruct other Judges and clinicians through NCJFCJ and has led focus groups for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Juvenile Drug Court Research organization.

Judge Capizzi volunteered with Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) to be involved in the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) and pushed for the implementation of JDAI in Montgomery County Juvenile Court. During Judge Capizzi's tenure, and as a result of JDAI implementation, the Court has seen a significant reduction in the number of youth committed to ODYS.

Judge Capizzi spearheaded the creation and implementation of the Juvenile Court's Evening Reporting Center (ERC), which opened in June 2014. ERC is a community-based alternative to secure confinement, created to enhance the Court's support of JDAI. The program serves males and females who would otherwise be placed in detention, providing highly structured evidence-based programming five days per week during the evening hours. The youth are picked up after school by court staff and taken to the ERC program, located at Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church's Family Life Center. The youth are then taken home by court staff.

Judge Capizzi initiated the involvement of Montgomery County Juvenile Court in the national Crossover Youth Initiative. Crossover youth are those who are involved with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. These youth generally require more intensive and a greater variety of services than other youth known to each system individually. Judge Capizzi's involvement with this Initiative has led to implementation of a system in Montgomery County Juvenile Court whereby a youth and his or her family are seen by the same judge or magistrate for all hearings, allowing for all possible services to be provided to the youth and family.

While a City of Dayton Commissioner, Tony Capizzi was the originator of the idea to bring minor league baseball to Dayton, Ohio. He spearheaded the effort to build a baseball facility as a downtown renovation project. He negotiated with Marge Schott, owner of the Cincinnati Reds, to get permission to bring a team to Dayton. He went to a number of stadiums to explore their design, was involved in selecting the design team for the Dragons stadium, and had input into the design of the facility in downtown Dayton. From the inception of his idea for the baseball team, Tony faced many obstacles and naysayers, but with his perseverance, the Dragons became a reality. In 2011, the Dragons broke the national record for most consecutive sell-outs for any professional sports team – a record the Dragons still hold today.

As a City Commissioner, Tony Capizzi was instrumental in supporting efforts of historic district growth in the city of Dayton. He was involved in the expansion of the Dayton Airport. He was a strong neighborhood activist and strong believer in citizen involvement. As a Commissioner, he was very involved in the community and still maintains strong community ties.

Tony Capizzi's experience as a City Commissioner contributes to his being a unique Judge who constantly works to improve systems, who has a natural ability to reorganize programs and start new programs in the court in order to achieve better efficiency and results, and who has the wherewithal and know-how to encourage community involvement with the youth who find themselves in Juvenile Court.