



COMMON PLEAS COURT

GENERAL DIVISION

Richard E. Berens, Administrative Judge
David A. Trimmer, Judge

PRESS RELEASE

May 30, 2017

On May 18, 2017, Judge Richard E. Berens of the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas was awarded the George Martin Professionalism Award by the Fairfield County Bar Association.

The George Martin Professionalism Award was first awarded in 2001 to recognize Fairfield County attorneys who display the highest standards of professionalism. The award is named after George D. Martin (1907 – 1993) who practiced law in Lancaster, Ohio for most of his life. Upon his retirement from practice, George Martin continued to serve his community by volunteering as a law clerk at the Fairfield County Common Pleas Court. He was widely known and respected for his passion for the law as well as his professional and personal integrity.

“George Martin was a brilliant lawyer who lived his professional and personal lives to the highest ethical standards,” explained former Common Pleas Court Judge Chris Martin, a previous award recipient. “He was a gentleman whose word was his bond.”

Judge Berens was nominated by Fairfield County Bar Association Committee member Jason Price. “Judge Berens has been the example of professionalism and dedication to the law and pursuit of justice during his career as an attorney and now Judge,” Mr. Price wrote. “As a judge, Richard has always sought to promote justice, fairness and the right result for each case he presides over. He treats all litigants and counsel before him with grace and dignity, and his knowledge and application of the law is to be admired.”

Judge Berens earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Administration from Miami University (Ohio) in 1980 and a Juris Doctorate degree from Capital University in 1985. He previously served as an aide to U.S. Congressman Clarence E. Miller, and while attending law school, served as a legal intern for Columbus City Attorney Greg Lashutka. From 1985 to 2003, he practiced law with his brother, Randall Berens, in their hometown of Lancaster.

Since 2003, Judge Berens has served Fairfield County as Judge of the Common Pleas Court, General Division. During that time, Judge Berens has presided over specialized dockets for recovering drug offenders and repeat offenders reentering the community after incarceration. Judge Berens has also taught courses in Business Law and Criminal Procedure at Ohio University, Lancaster Campus, as an adjunct professor.

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