

Honorable Daniel J. Brabender, Jr., Erie County Court of Common Pleas

I am a life-long resident of Erie and a graduate of the University of Dayton School of Law. I was sworn in to the bar by Erie County President Judge Edward Carney on October 11, 1978 and operated out of 254 West Sixth Street for the next 31+ years. I engaged in the general practice of law in several state and federal courts, representing clients in the areas of real estate, wills and estates, bankruptcy, personal injury, domestic matters and criminal law. I represented individuals in over 100 criminal and civil jury trials.

I won both Democratic and Republican nominations in a nine-person field on May 19, 2009; and took my oath of office to begin a ten-year term on January 4, 2010. I served six years in the Family Division, giving hundreds of litigants fair hearings and trials in the sensitive areas of divorce, custody, support, juvenile crime, PFAs and ICCs, termination of parental rights and adoptions. Defending dozens of appeals, on but one occasion was I reversed by the Superior Court. That was in an OCY case where I did try to keep a family together.

Since 2016, I have been in the Trial Division and have presided over thousands of civil and primarily criminal matters. I have tried to see the humanity in victims and defendants while ruling over them. I have defended nearly 200 appeals and post-conviction petitions, with just one being reversed and only a handful being remanded for sentencing issues.

I have a full understanding of what lawyers deal with on a day-to-day basis, coupled with common sense, consideration for others and a desire to present myself at all times in a courteous and gentlemanly manner. I have an open-door policy to my office and my wonderful staff has been most accommodating to those needing attention.

Hopefully, lawyers and litigants see that I have the talent, experience and temperament that enables me to protect imperiled rights and to render fair decisions. I know the citizens of Erie County and I have put myself into the shoes of the men and women who appear before me. That, I believe, is the heart of being a good judge. I have set high ethical standards; I have disciplined myself rigorously; and I have contributed much unpaid service to the public. I have a genuine devotion to our community, an extensive background in the legal issues relevant to the times, all tested with the most intensive civil and criminal trial experience.

I have been active in the community during my time on the bench; and in the past two decades I have published four local best-sellers on the history of local sports. I have also raised two daughters through their teenage years, one who will be starting college this fall in New York City and another heading into her senior year in high school.