

**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 13, 2017**

Medina Municipal Court Judge Dale Chase today announced that he will not seek re-election to a sixth term in the upcoming 2017 election. “I thought it was important to make a public announcement so attorneys who might be interested have time to circulate petitions to run for the position,” he said. “The next person to serve in this office should have significant and extensive experience in municipal courts. Before I was first elected I served as an Acting Judge for six years, and practiced law in municipal courts for a dozen years, so I had a clear understanding of the job and its responsibilities before I took office.”

Judge Chase was first elected as Judge of the Medina Municipal Court in 1987 and took office on January 1, 1988. He was re-elected four times, most recently in 2011, when he was unopposed. Judges in Ohio serve six year terms. He will have served as judge for thirty years when his term ends on December 31, 2017. “I appreciate that voters gave me the opportunity to serve as Judge. Every day I get to work to make our communities a safer place and to have a positive impact on people’s lives.”

In the 29 years that he has served in the position, Judge Chase has resolved 21,103 cases of operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol (OVI). “I am proud to have maintained the policy that OVI cases are not reduced to lesser offenses,” he said; “I believe the voters have a right to expect that whoever is elected this year will maintain that policy because it makes our streets and highways safer and protects the families of the people who live, work, and visit here.”

The Court handles felony and misdemeanor criminal cases; traffic and civil cases, including personal injury, contract disputes, small claims, and evictions; and acts in thousands of cases to enforce and collect civil judgments for individuals and businesses. In 29 years of service, Judge Chase has resolved 489,825 cases. “It will be over half a million cases by the time I finish,” he said.

“This is a 24/7, 365 day a year job. I had officers at my house at 2:00 a.m. New Year’s morning to obtain a search warrant,” he said.

The Medina Municipal Court jurisdiction includes the cities of Brunswick and Medina, Spencer and Chippewa Lake villages, and 11 townships (Liverpool, Brunswick Hills, Hinckley, Litchfield, York, Medina, Granger, Spencer, Chatham, Lafayette, and Montville).

END