



*The Separate Juvenile Court
of Douglas County*

JUDGE VERNON C. R. DANIELS
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May 1, 2026

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MAY - 8 2026

Office of the Chief Justice

Hon. Jeffrey J. Funke, Chief Justice
Nebraska Supreme Court
Room 2214 State Capitol
Lincoln NE 68509

Gov. Jim Pillen
PO Box 94848
Lincoln NE 68509-4848

Dear Chief Justice Funke and Governor Pillen:

Given that I would say essentially the same thing to each of you, I have taken the liberty of a joint letter. I apologize in advance for any offense to protocol - as well as the letter's length.

I write to advise each of you that after much consideration it is my desire to retire as a Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County on December 31, 2026, and I will not be standing for retention. Until this time, it will be continued full throttle on my part.

Through the hard work of case professionals of every yoke, for 35+ years I have had a front row seat in witnessing the impossible become possible for children and families. For me, this has consumed and has been the joy and fulfillment of my professional career-the last 25 years as a judge of the Separate Juvenile Court.

I announce my decision now because I care deeply about the juvenile court and the work that it does. As noted, almost the entirety of my professional career has been devoted in service to juvenile law. The juvenile court is a busy trial court and it is vital to our state and all of our futures. It is important to me that the juvenile court always remains fully staffed. I want to allow sufficient time for decisions as to whether to retain this judgeship in Douglas County, and with the hope that the most qualified candidates emerge who are willing to devote the individualized attention and work ethic that these cases require.

My continuing appreciation to the citizens of Nebraska who have allowed me to continue a life of public service first with Legal Aid of Omaha, as a Deputy County Attorney, and lastly as a judge. I remain indebted to my administrative assistant of 25+

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years, bailiffs, court reporters, and the past and present judges with whom I have served. I also thank my family who understood my respect for this area of the law and understood "being present, but not always present" due to my devotion to cases entrusted to me.

Sincerely,



Vernon Daniels
Juvenile Court Judge

Cc: Corey Steel
Marcie Luhman