Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
ALL EYES ON THE COURT IN THIS ELECTION

With the sudden passing of Justice Scalia, the stalled confirmation of controversial appointment Merrick Garland, the awareness of judicial appointments and their significance is at an all time high.

(The Judicial Branch) may truly be said to have neither FORCE nor WILL, but merely judgment; and must ultimately depend upon the aid of the executive arm even for the efficacy of its judgments. (Alexander Hamilton, Federalist No. 78)

Western Civilization generally, and America specifically, owes a tremendous debt to the Holy Bible for giving, among other things, form and substance to government, language, culture, and law. The Bible says, “Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.” In 1215, the Magna Carta was signed limiting the power of the king for the first time. Less than fifty years later, renowned legal scholar Henry de Bracton noted that kings are not under man, but under God and under the law. A shift had occurred in which law itself, not the authority of a king or individual, gives power and authority. This certainly included judges, commissioners, and other administrative officials who adjudicated matters between parties. Likewise in the 18th century, the Founding Fathers were aware of both biblical language and British history when they convened in Philadelphia and wrote both the Declaration of Independence, and later the United States Constitution. Article VI of the latter says plainly, “This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, and anything in the Constitution or Law of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.” (Italics mine) The judges that are appointed, elected, or retained in office are not the supreme law or the supreme lawmakers. That line must not be crossed. We have come too far to relinquish our freedoms to those in black robes.

The most esteemed and perhaps best-known judges in the nation are those we refer uniquely to as “Justices” and sit on the Supreme Court of the United States with a lifetime appointment from the president. Much less known are the judges of our own state here in Missouri. It is likely most people would be hard pressed to name even one of judges on the Missouri Supreme Court. Yet these men and women, appointed by the governor of the state, make decisions, which affect all of us every day.

In Missouri alone, there are over 45 circuit courts with over 400 judges who preside over courtrooms throughout the state; including the Supreme Court (seven judges), the District Courts of Appeal that are divided into three geographic districts (Eastern, Southern and Western) (32 judges); and finally the circuit courts that sit in every county of the state. This does not take into consideration all of the various municipal judges, commissioners, and administrative law judges who are either elected or appointed to their constitutional positions. The men and women who make up the judiciary in the state are all fellow Missourians who are licensed by the State of Missouri to practice law and are required by oath to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Missouri. Why? Because the Constitution, not the judge, is the supreme law of the land.

As informed and concerned citizens of our state, we need to be aware of who is being placed in these ever increasingly important positions and hold them accountable to faithfully and honestly execute their roles as judgment makers without regard to personal whims or will separate and apart from the law. Just like you and me, they are bound by state and national laws without regard to race, creed, status, or nationality.

The method of selecting judges in Missouri is known as the Nonpartisan Court Plan, or the “Missouri Plan,” which has been used in Missouri since 1940 and has become the model for dozens of other state judicial selection plans as a means to remove partisanship from the judiciary by using committees of lawyers and non-lawyers to select a slate of candidates from which the governor selects for appointment. This system (based on merit selection) uses the assisted appointment method by which the governor appoints state judges from a short list submitted by a review board. This process applies to the seven judges of the Missouri Supreme Court and the thirty-two judges of the Missouri Court of Appeals. Most circuit court judges are not chosen under the Missouri Plan, but are elected to office on a partisan basis. For more information on the Missouri Plan Judicial Performance Reviews on each judge, go to www.yourmissourijudges.org.

As citizens, we have a vested interest in all stages of judicial selection in order to maintain confidence in not just the process, but the outcome as well. Nonpartisan does not always translate into impartial and in the end, the decision is left to one person to select a candidate to become a judge. Transparency of process is always one key to ensuring integrity. After a judge is placed in office, we must remain vigilant so that they are held accountable for their performance. That is the purpose of holding retention votes after each term. The Constitution does not give judges the option of going their own way or ruling subjectively from the bench as if free from any restraint or higher authority. Paragraph two of Article VI uses “shall” no less than four times in a single sentence. If the rule of law means anything, it means that no king, president, judge, or other ruler is above the supreme law of the land: the Constitution. Thomas Jefferson said, “Whenever the General Government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthorized, void, and of no force.” Many are concerned that we are moving away from these principles, or worse, that we have long since moved on from them. In either case, we are morally obligated to either stop violating this principle or return to the standard so long observed and cherished in western civilization.

On November 8, 2016, we will again go to the polls to elect or retain judges that have been put on the ballot. We will also select a new governor who will make these appointments for the next four years. In this edition of
CIRCUIT JUDGES

Circuit judges are selected either through popular vote or by appointment under the Nonpartisan Court Plan. These courts have original jurisdiction over civil and criminal causes of action. All trials start at this level. Circuit court judges must be at least 30 years old, residents of their circuit, and U.S. citizens for 10 years and Missouri voters for three years. Circuit judges serve six-year terms. The Constitution requires at least one circuit judge in each of Missouri’s 45 judicial circuits. Circuit 6 is Platte County; Circuit 7 is Clay County; Circuit 16 is Jackson County; Circuit 21 is St. Louis County; and Circuit 22 is St. Louis City.

Richard B. Teitelman

Judge Teitelman was appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals in 1998 by Gov. Mel Carnahan. In February 2002 Gov. Bob Holden appointed him to the Supreme Court of Missouri. He was retained in office at the November 2004 general election for a 12-year term expiring December 31, 2016. Solo practitioner 1973-1975; Joined Legal Services of Eastern Missouri in 1975 and served 23 years; 18 of those as executive director and general counsel. Judge Teitelman served on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, from 1998 to 2002, when he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Missouri, becoming the first legally blind and the first Jewish member of the court. He was retained in the 2004 general election. He was elected chief justice for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2011, and served on the Executive Council of the Judicial Conference of Missouri. He serves as second vice president of the Conference of Chief Justices. In his pursuit of equality and access to justice for all, Judge Teitelman is currently a member of the African-American/Jewish Task Force. He served on the board of the American Jewish Congress and is a member of the board of the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists. He served on the Midwest Board of the American Federation for the Blind; as a board member of the St. Louis Public Library; and is a lifetime member of the Urban League of St. Louis. Judge Teitelman is a Life Patron Fellow of the American Bar Association (ABA). He served on the executive committee of the ABA Appellate Judicial Conference and the American Judicature Society (AJS) and is an AJS delegate to the ABA House of Delegates. He has served as president of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL); president of the BAMSL Young Lawyers Section; charter member and president of the St. Louis Bar Foundation; and vice president and president elect of The Missouri Bar. He was chair of the bar’s Delivery of Legal Services Committee. He is a Life Fellow of and serves as ex officio of the Missouri Bar Foundation; trustee of the National Council of Bar Foundations; and served as chair of the ABA Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law. He served as a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service. Judge Teitelman’s dedication to the legal services program has earned him many honors, including the Missouri Bar President’s Award, the American Council for the Blind’s Durward K. McDaniel Ambassador Award, the Women’s Legal Caucus Good Guy Award, the Mound City Bar Association Legal Service Award, the ABA Young Lawyers Division Award of Merit, the ABA Young Lawyers Division Difference Maker Award and the St. Louis Bar Foundation Award. Legal Services of Eastern Missouri has named its pro bono award for legal services the “Richard Teitelman Award.” Judge Teitelman is an honorary dean of St. Louis University School of Law’s DaBourg Society and an honorary member of Washington University School of Law’s Order of the Coif and Eliot Society. He is a member of the Washington University School of Law National Council. He was honored by Washington University School of Law as a Distinguished Alumnus. Judge Teitelman participated in the Toll Fellowship Program of the Council of State Governments. Other honors Judge Teitelman has received include The Missouri Bar: Award for Professionalism; the American Jewish Congress Democracy in Action Award; the Lawyers Association of St. Louis Award of Honor; the St. Louis Society for the Blind Lifetime Achievement Award; the University of Missouri–Columbia School of Law Distinguished Non-Alumnus Award; the ABA Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division’s Hudson Award, ABA Legislative Advocacy Award and its Grassroots Legislative Advocacy Award; the Dr. Martin L. King Jr. State Celebration Committee Distinguished Statesman Award; the Ethical Humanist of the Year (St. Louis); the St. Louis University School of Law Clarence Darrow Award; The Missouri Bar Spurgeon Smithson Award; the Interfaith Legal Service for Immigrants (St. Louis) Lifetime Achievement Award; the BAMSL Access to Justice Award; the Jews United For Justice Heschel-King Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Asian-American Bar Association’s 2013 Torch Bearer Award.

In the News

In 2013, in a case that shows the significance of not only who is appointing judges, but in who those judges are and what political, moral, and legal philosophy they bring to the court, Judge Teitelman took a distinctly liberal position on a case involving same-sex partners and benefits for a surviving partner. “By taking a narrow view of the law, the Missouri Supreme Court may have made the correct legal decision – and dodged political controversy – in denying survivor benefits to (a) same-sex partner of a fallen Missouri Highway Patrol trooper. But a powerful dissent by Judge Richard B. Teitelman points out (what he sees as) the real problem – Missouri’s constitutional prohibition on gay marriage. His dissent served as a rallying cry to those who want the ban lifted.”

In a 5-2 decision Tuesday, the Supreme Court found Mr. Glossip ineligible for pension benefits that normally go to the spouse of a trooper killed in the line of duty. The decision was based on the fact that Mr. Glossip and the trooper, Cpl. Dennis Engelhard, were not married.

In 2015, the Supreme Court held in a 5-2 decision that Ameren Missouri was not liable for the deaths of...
two children electrocuted by faulty wiring on a dock located on a lake owned by Ameren. The court held that a dock fee charged by Ameren does not make them liable under the Missouri Recreational Use Act. This Act limits liability for companies that let the public use their property free of charge. The court agreed with the circuit court judge and against a broad reading of the law. Judge Teitelman dissented from the majority arguing that the dock fees amounted to a “charge” for the children to use the dock to access the lake and that the dock would not exist absent the fees charged by Ameren.4

In the News

“A Missouri appeals court ruled Tuesday for the first time that possession of child pornography is a ‘continuing course of conduct’ that doesn’t end until the defendant loses possession of the images — such as when the police seize them.” “It follows that, under the statute’s plain terms, the conduct criminalized is the having in one’s control child pornography, which conduct by definition is inherently ongoing and continual until such possession terminates,” Judge Philip M. Hess wrote for the court. “Accordingly, we hold that the legislature’s plain intent was to criminalize possession of child pornography as a continuing course of conduct.” “We do not see how our holding does not comport with the policy concerns of the statute of limitations, especially in Defendant’s circumstance, where possession terminated and the police seized the evidence on the same day,” Hess wrote.7

James M. Dowd

Philip M. Hess
Born March 22, 1958; served as United States Senate Page, summer 1975. Educated in Crystal City Public Schools; Rockhurst University, B.A., 1980 in economics and philosophy; and University of Missouri School of Law, J.D., 1983. Married with three sons. Engaged in the private practice of law for 30 years, the last 15 as a partner in Larsen & Hess, P.C. Member: St. Catherine Laboure Catholic Church; The Missouri Bar, past chair of its Workers’ Compensation Committee; Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, past chair of its Workers’ Compensation Committee; Lawyers Association; and Jefferson County Bar Association; Past president Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys (MATA); Received Outstanding Service Award, MATA, 2012; President’s Award, MATA, 2003; elected Fellow, College of Workers’ Compensation Attorneys, 2009; Appointed by Gov. Nixon to the Court of Appeals November 2013.

In the News

“Judge Fincham has a combination of experience both on the bench and previously in private practice for three decades, and his experience and legal knowledge are assets that have served the people of Platte County well.” Nixon said in a statement. “I am pleased to appoint him to serve those citizens from the circuit bench.” Nixon had previously appointed Fincham to the associate bench in 2010. Before becoming an associate judge, he practiced law in the Kansas City area for almost 30 years and had served as a municipal judge for several communities.8

Thomas C. Fincham
Division 1
B.A. in economics, 1977, University of Missouri-Kansas City; law degree in 1981, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Appointed by Gov. Nixon in May 2010 as an associate circuit judge. Practiced law in the Kansas City area for more than 30 years; was a partner in the Gladstone firm of Fincham and Dalmon at the time of his appointment to the bench. His experience included arguing cases before the Missouri Supreme Court and the Missouri Western District Court of Appeals. Served as an appointed municipal judge for the communities of Ferrelview, Oakview, Platte Woods, Richmond, Riverside and Lawson. Member: Missouri Bar Assn.; Platte County Bar Assn.; Clay County Bar Assn.; Missouri Municipal and Associate Circuit Judges Assn., board of directors, chairman of Regional Seminars Committee in 2006-2007, secretary; Clay/Platte Associate and Municipal Judges Assn., secretary/treasurer in 1998-1999, president 1999-2000: Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Assn., 1997-2003; Missouri Assn. of Trial Attorneys. Community involvement includes: board of directors for Northland Alternative Service program, a not-for-profit organization that coordinates community service time for defendants who are placed on probation or diversion; adjunct professor of law at UMKC School of Law, 1992-1997. Married since 1987.

In the News

W. Ann Hansbrough
Division 4
Born July 7, 1960, in Poplar Bluff. University of Missouri–Columbia, Bachelor in Journalism, 1982; University of Missouri, Columbia School of Law, J.D., 1985. Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers (Peer Review selected Top 5% of Women Lawyers - 2011-2013); selected as “Super Lawyer” for Missouri,
In the News

“Eckold has been trained as a certified mediator and arbitrator. Eckold is a 1983 graduate of the University of Missouri Law School. From 1998 to 2003, he served as an appointed member of the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners. Eckold was a founding member of the Kansas City Keep Safe Committee to study police and fire department capital needs, which resulted in the eventual construction of a new police academy, police station and fire station. He also has been active in his church and in community youth sports activities. From 1998 to 2003, Eckold served on the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners. He served as board president from 2001 to 2003.

“He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. While attending law school, Eckold worked in the attorney general’s office.”

Louis Angles
Division 7


In the News

“Louise Angles, a solo practitioner in Excelsior Springs, was named an associate circuit judge for the Clay County Circuit Court. Ron Carrier, a former prosecutor, was named an associate judge for the Greene County Circuit Court. Angles fills the vacancy created by the recent appointment of Judge Janet Sutton to the circuit bench. Also applying were attorneys Timothy Flook and Douglas Wemhoff. Angles holds a law degree from Washburn University. Before his legal career, he was a pharmacist in the Kansas City area and also served in the U.S. Marine Corps. His family fled Cuba when he was a young child, and he has used his fluency in Spanish to serve clients and to act as a translator.”

Dennis C. Eckold
Division 5

Born October 8, 1956, in Elkhart, Indiana; J.D., University of Missouri School of Law, 1983. Appointed by Gov. Nixon as an associate circuit judge in May 2010. Worked in private practice of law in the Kansas City area since 1983, for the past 11 years with his own firm, Dennis C. Eckold and Assoc. LLC; trained as a certified mediator and arbitrator. From 1998-2003, served as an appointed member of the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners. Founding member of the Kansas City Keep Safe Committee to study police and fire department capital needs, which resulted in the eventual construction of a new police academy, police station and fire station. Active in his church and in community youth sports activities.

In the News

“Veterans court programs have sprung up in 40 states since 2008, an alternative to jail for some veterans who get into trouble...” In Missouri... “about 80 veterans are enrolled in treatment instead of being jailed” so that veterans who have diagnosed conditions that are at the root of their behavior can be treated. “In Missouri, Clay County is the latest to launch a program. Circuit Judge Shane T. Alexander, a Navy veteran, who said he "wanted a veterans court ASAP."
Circuit Judge 16th Judicial Circuit
Jackson County

Sandra C. Midkiff
Division 1
Judge Midkiff was appointed 16th Judicial Circuit judge by Gov. Bob Holden in March 2002. Received bachelor’s degree in 1972 from Knox College in Galesburg, IL; J.D., University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School with honors (1975). Private practice from 1975 until her appointment to the bench; Original member of the Association of Women Lawyers; member of: the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association; the Jackson County Law Library board; the Jackson County Circuit Court Rules Committee, the Missouri Institute for Justice, the National Association of Women Judges; Greater Kansas City Association for Women Lawyers. Honors: Benjamin Cardozo Award for Judicial Courage and Excellence from the Missouri Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in 2008.

In the News
“Following a court mandate, Missouri officials ... have lifted restrictions that automatically prevented homosexuals from becoming foster parents. ... Jackson County Circuit Judge Sandra Midkiff ruled in February that the state could not reject a foster parent license application by a Kansas City lesbian. (The woman) who wanted to foster children with her partner, ...was turned down three years ago after officials said she lacked ‘reputable character’ because homosexuality was illegal in Missouri. In her ruling Judge Midkiff cited the 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down a Texas law against same-sex sodomy.” (Associated Press, July 19, 2006: “Missouri lifts restrictions on gay foster parents”)

David M. Byrn
Division 3
Appointed circuit judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit by Gov. Matt Blunt in September 2008; practiced law for 27 years with firm of Jeter, Rains & Byrn, LC. Bachelor’s degree summa cum laude in economics and social studies at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, in 1978; law degree in 1981 from University of Missouri-Kansas City; Civil Mediator Certification from the University of Missouri. Memberships include: Missouri Bar Association, Metropolitan Kansas City Bar Association, and Eastern Jackson County Bar Association. Received the Community Service Award from the Eastern Jackson County Bar Association and special recognition from the Jackson County Circuit Court for his contributions to public forums regarding the Missouri judicial system and nonpartisan court plan. Ordained minister in the Community of Christ Church and has served in multiple administrative positions and on boards and commissions of the church; volunteers for the Truman Neurological Center, Optimist Club, Boy Scouts, and Habitat for Humanity. He and his wife have two daughters and two grandchildren.

In the News
“Gov. Matt Blunt named Kansas City lawyer David M. Byrn to the Jackson County Circuit Court. ... This is the fourth time Byrn has applied for a judicial appointment, he said. Being a judge, he said, ‘is a great way to combine the desire of public service that my parents instilled in me ... with the love of the law in hoping to make a difference.’ ... He also commended the selection process, noting that the Nonpartisan Court Plan ‘removes some outside influences’ and focuses the judicial commissions on ability.” (St. Louis Daily Record, Sept. 4, 2008: “Byrn will fill spot on Jackson County bench”)

J. Dale Youngs
Division 6
Appointed circuit judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit in May 2009 by Gov. Jay Nixon: Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri; law degree from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, where he was a member of the national moot court team and a recipient of the American College of Trial Lawyers Medal for Excellence in Trial Advocacy. In 1989, joined law firm of Spradley & Riesmeyer in Kansas City; from 1996-2002, served as an Assistant Missouri Attorney General and served as chief of the office’s High Technology and Computer Crime Unit, and as Chief Counsel for the Western Region; Joined what is now Husch Blackwell Sanders until his appointment to the bench. Member: board of directors, Missouri Institute of Justice; Strategic Vision Committee of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association; Circuit Court Communications Committee and Employee Recruitment/Recognition Committee; Missouri Bar; Member of Visitation Catholic Church and board of directors of the Sherwood Center.

In the News
“A Jackson County judge ordered Union Pacific Railroad to pay more than $675,000 in attorneys’ fees and compensation to a woman who successfully sued the railroad in October for sex discrimination. ... (T)he final decree from ... Judge J. Dale Youngs increased the total judgment against Union Pacific almost $2.1 million. A jury awarded $1.27 million to a woman who claimed she lost her job as a train conductor because of gender discrimination and retaliation. The jury also awarded (her) $120,000 in compensatory damages. (She) claimed that the railroad’s male management began harassing her shortly after she was promoted to the position of forewoman .... Union Pacific’s attorneys asked the judge to slash any award of attorneys’ fees by 66 percent because the plaintiff dropped (one of the defendants) before the case went to the jury. ... Judge Youngs rejected the 66 percent argument and deemed reasonable the $425 hourly rates of (the woman’s attorneys), awarding the two a total of $452,971. ... Given the results obtained in this case, and in light of the vigorous defense put on by the defendant, the Court believes it is appropriate ... to exercise its discretion in favor of allowing for a broader recovery of expenses than might otherwise [be] found in Missouri’s general cost statutes,” Youngs wrote in the judgment. Because of the ‘hostility’ between plaintiff and defendant, Youngs opted to award (the woman) $200,000 in ‘front pay’ [compensation for losing her job, in which she earned $65,000 per year]. He also signed off on the jury’s original awards.” (Missouri Lawyers Media, March 17, 2010: “Discrimination award in Jackson County Circuit Court tops $2M”)

S. Margene Burnett
Division 7
Appointed circuit judge by Gov. Nixon in 2013; Prior to her appointment she was a Deputy Commissioner in the probate division of the 16th judicial circuit, Jackson County. Judge Burnett practiced law in Jackson County since 1987. Judge Burnett started her career as an associate with Morris & Larson and later Hillis, Brewer, Hoffhaus, Whittaker & Wright. In 1995, Judge Burnett began her own practice. Immediately prior to her appointment to the Probate Court, Judge Burnett served as Respondent’s Counsel for the mentally ill and adults who are alleged to be incompetent and incapacitated. Judge Burnett is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. She has a bachelor degree in magazine journalism and political science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Honors: Commissioner S. Margene Burnett Elected President of the Board of Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges (2011); Elected as Vice President of the Board of the Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges in April, 2010; Re-elected as a member of the Board of the Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges in April, 2009.

Bryan E. Round
Division 8
Born September 20, 1960, Kansas City, Missouri; Circuit Judge Bryan E. Round was appointed to Division 8 by Gov. Jay Nixon on February 18, 2014. At the time of his appointment, Judge Round was an attorney in private practice with the law firm of Mitchell, Krist & Lieber. He specialized in the areas of workers’ compensation, criminal law and business litigation matters. He was also serving as the Workers’ Compensation Panel Attorney for the Kansas City area after an appointment by the National Football League Players Association. He represented football players and other professional athletes before the Missouri Division of Workers’ Compensation. He was also serving as the municipal judge for the City of Peculiar, Missouri, which is a position he had held since 2004.

Judge Round served as an assistant Jackson County Prosecutor from 1988 to 1997. He was appointed to serve as the secretary/attorney to the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners, and later its business manager, from 1997 through 2005. He also served as counsel for the Jackson County Combat Commission. Prior to his appointment, Judge Round was an organizer and board member of the Cass County Youth Court. Over the years, he has been active in local charitable and youth sports organizations. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Kansas in 1984. He graduated from
In 2014, Judge Round upheld an arbitrator’s 2008 ruling that “the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese must pay the $1.1 million ordered by an arbitrator last spring for violating the terms of a 2008 settlement with priest sexual abuse victims.” Calling the award a “scathing indictment,” Judge Round said the diocese was “and is constitutionally incapable of placing the preservation and protection of the clergy culture in a subordinate position to any other consideration, including the timely reporting to law enforcement of a priest involved in the use of diocesan children as pornography models.”

“The parties jointly selected Mr. Hanover as the Arbitrator and ‘vested him with the discretion to resolve all such disputes. The decision of the Arbitrator regarding any such dispute shall remain final and binding,’ Judge Bryan Round wrote in his order confirming the award. Round also called out the diocese opposition as a bait-and-switch ploy, giving the plaintiffs a lower upfront settlement payment with the promise to do better, and then trying to avoid following the non-monetary commitments it made to get that cheaper price. “When the Diocese breached the non-economic commitments, it effectively received the benefit without paying for it,” Round wrote.

During a sentencing hearing in July of 2014 Judge Round is reported to have made remarks that “raised the eyebrows of some legal-ethics experts.” According to one source, Judge Round “became angry after discovering that [the defendant] was considering filing a civil lawsuit against the Kansas City Police Department” for using excessive force during the arrest. Remarks made by the judge “spread like wildfire through the legal community” and according to several legal experts should “never be a factor” in criminal proceedings. Others called the comments “outrageous” and an “over stepping of judicial bounds.” One law professor commenting on the incident said that “judges historically have a great deal of discretion in sentencing and have the responsibility to take their obligations seriously and “avoid personal frustration and anger” and noted that the “judge here failed that duty” and “let personal whim an preference get in the way of justice.”

Joel P. Fahnstock
Division 9
Born March 1, 1969, in Marshall, Missouri; Prior to her appointment, she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney’s Office. She began her career as Law Clerk to United States District Judge Scott O. Wright, and then she joined the law firm of Rouse, Hendricks, German, May and Shank. She later joined the law firm of Shank, Laue & Hamilton and worked nine months in the Drug Unit of the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office. Judge Fahnstock is a member of the Missouri Bar and several professional associations. Received recognition for her outstanding work and contributions to the United States Attorney’s Office in both 2007 and 2008. She received the UMKC Outstanding Academic Achievement Award; the National Association of Women Lawyers Award; the ABA National Trial Competition Award; the Clark Boardman Callaghan Award for Exemplary Third Year Student; and several American Jurisprudence Awards. She currently serves as the Chair of the Court’s Technology and Court Reporter Committees. Judge Fahnstock also serves on and chairs numerous statewide committees, including the Missouri Court Automation Committee, the Implementation Subcommittee (Chair), the Trial Judge’s Focus Group, the Court Management Oversight Team (CMOT), e-Filing Focus Group and the After Hours Support Committee.

Judge Fahnstock graduated from William Woods College with a Bachelor's degree in English Communications. She obtained her Juris Doctorate from the UMKC School of Law, where she competed on the trial team and served as a Note Editor for the UMKC Law Review.

Judge Fahnstock was appointed by Gov. Matt Blunt on January 6, 2009 and retained in 2010. Term expires Dec. 31, 2016; nonpartisan.

In the News
In May 2016, Judge Joel Fahnstock presided over a case involving a lawsuit against, among others, the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners (“Board”) in which a man was injured following the deployment by police officers of tire deflation devices to stop a vehicle pursuit. The injured party was an innocent citizen at the wrong place and time when the chase concluded with a car crash resulting in bodily injury. Judge Fahnstock granted official immunity to the police officers involved and dismissed other claims against them but denied sovereign immunity to the Board finding that Missouri’s motor vehicle exception applied. According to the plaintiff’s attorney, allowing a suit against the Board and denying official immunity is “not common” but the circumstances of the police pursuit played a role. The jury returned a one million dollar award to the plaintiff.

W. Brent Powell
Division 11
Born in Springfield, Missouri, Judge Powell was appointed a circuit judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit in February 2008 by Gov. Matt Blunt. Bachelor of Arts degree from William Jewell College; law degree from the University of Missouri in 1996; editor for the Missouri Law Review; president of the Student Bar Association. Began his career in private practice; assistant prosecutor in the Platte County Prosecutor’s Office; Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Kansas City office in 2001; chief of General Crimes Unit and Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney. Serves as lead master of the Ross T. Roberts Inn of Court program in Kansas City. Member: Trial Judge Education Committee; Missouri Supreme Court Committee on Access to Family Courts; Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association; Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City; Member of Visitation Catholic Church and sponsor and team leader of confirmation class. Volunteer: Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault and Child Protection Center; Board member of Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance. He and his wife live in Kansas City.

Jennifer M. Phillips
Division 12

In the News
On February 10, 2015, Gov. Nixon appointed Jennifer M. Phillips as Circuit Judge for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit (Jackson County) to fill a vacancy created by retirement of Judge Messina. Phillips has served with the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office since 2002, and held the position of Chief Trial Assistant over the violent crimes unit, where she supervised seven trial attorneys. Phillips has played a significant role in Kansas City’s No Violence Alliance, a collaboration between federal, state and local law enforcement, the faith-based community, social service agencies, and city leaders to reduce violent crimes and provide social services to offenders who want to choose a different path.

Before joining the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, she was legal counsel for the Missouri Department of Revenue. Phillips obtained both her law and undergraduate degrees from the University of Missouri. “As an assistant prosecuting attorney in Jackson County, Jennifer Phillips has demonstrated her dedication to public service, as well as her ability and experience in the courtroom,” Nixon said. “I am pleased to appoint her as Circuit Judge from a well-qualified panel.” Phillips was one of three applicants submitted to Gov. Nixon for consideration by the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Commission under the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan.

“Now more than ever the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption.” – James Garfield, 1877

Court Watch cont’d p 7
Court Watch from p 6

Associate Circuit Judge 16th Judicial District

Jalliah Otto
Division 26

Born in Kansas City. Graduate of Lincoln College Preparatory Academy, Kansas City; Tulane University, New Orleans, La., B.A. communication and political science; University of Missouri-Columbia, J.D. Served as a law clerk to the Hon. Lisa White Hardwick, Missouri Court of Appeals, 2002-2005; assistant prosecuting attorney for Jackson County, 2005-2010; and special assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Missouri, 2010-2013. Simultaneously served as special assistant U.S. attorney and chief trial assistant for Jackson County. Award: Louis Lombardo Prosecutor of the Year Award, Member: the Missouri Bar, Missouri Probate and Associate Circuit Court Judge Association, Jackson County and Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Associations, and Association of Women Lawyers. Appointed by the Missouri Supreme Court to serve on the Joint Commission on Women in the Profession, Joint Task Force on the Future of the Profession and the Racial and Ethnic Fairness Commission. Appointed associate circuit judge by Gov. Nixon on Jan. 7, 2014. Term expires Dec. 31, 2018. Nonpartisan.

Jeffrey C. Keal
Division 28


In the News

Gov. Nixon on Tuesday named Jeffrey C. Keal as associate circuit judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit in Jackson County. Keal had been with the Jackson County prosecuting attorney’s office in Independence since 1991, replaced Associate Circuit Judge Vernon Scoville III, who retired. As a Jackson County prosecutor in Independence, Keal oversaw the criminal traffic unit, described as a high-volume docket routinely handling more than 600 cases. Through that unit, Keal has implemented a variety of programs, including the Youthful Traffic Offenders Program to deter speeding, drunken driving, and texting while driving by young drivers.

Keal also established an Education Court in eastern Jackson County, with Fort Osage High School as the first in the program. Because there is a strong connection between a lack of education and crime, the program is designed to help kids stay in school.26

Circuit Judge 21st Judicial Circuit St. Louis County

Janette K. Rodecap
Division 29


Judge Rodecap joined the Prosecutor’s Office in 2006 as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. She worked in the Street Crimes Unit for the majority of her tenure, as well as the Special Victims Unit. Judge Rodecap worked to improve the relationship between the office and the community as a neighborhood prosecutor, and she implemented a new diversion program aimed at young, first-time felony offenders. She was honored as the Neighborhood Prosecutor of the Year in 2012, and she received the Albert A. Riederer Award in 2014. Her background also includes working as an Assistant State Attorney for the State Attorney’s Office in Florida, and as Court Counsel for the Supreme Court of Palau, an island country in the Pacific Ocean. In addition, she served as a judicial clerk to U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey of the Western District of Missouri after graduating from law school. Married with two children. Appointed associate circuit judge by Gov. Nixon on May 28, 2014. Term expires Dec. 31, 2016. Nonpartisan.

Robert L. Trout
Division 32

Born September 4, 1949, in Clarinda, Iowa; Appointed to the circuit court in 1987 by Gov. Ashcroft; B.A. from William Jewell College in 1971; J.D. degree from University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1975. Served as a municipal judge in Lone Jack, Missouri, from 1980 to 1987. Prior to assuming the bench, practiced law in Blue Springs and Odessa. Past member of the State Public Defender Commission and former chair of the Jackson County University of Missouri Extension Council; Member: Missouri Bar, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Assn., and First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs. Married and has two daughters.

In the News

In July of 2000, Judge Farragut-Hemphill was among those appointed by Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White to sit on the state’s tobacco case. “At issue is whether four groups can intervene in the suit the state filed more than three years ago to recover the state’s cost of treating tobacco-related illnesses. Some of the groups want part of the money while others want to make sure they can pursue separate suits against cigarette makers. ... In picking Farragut-Hemphill ... White chose

SHORT LINES

Part of the problem with the world today is that no one snaps green beans with Grandma anymore.
a former law partner. The two practiced together from 1988 to 1991, when Farragut-Hemphill was appointed to the bench by former Gov. John Ashcroft. ("St. Louis Post-Dispatch, July 29, 2000: “Black-majority court will decide tobacco case”)

Judge Farragut-Hemphill was among the judges who, in September of 1995, approved a parent education program designed to help parents understand the divorce process and its effects on children and adults. Under the program, any parent seeking a divorce in St. Louis County would have to take a parenting class before the divorce would be granted. “Judge Farragut-Hemphill said she had seen numerous cases in which parents who are separating think they have everything worked out perfectly, only to be back in her court several months later. ‘Remember, the program is geared toward the best interests of the children,’ Farragut-Hemphill said. ‘Sometimes people think that, at the moment, everything is hunky-dory with the kids, but it all breaks down later.’ (“St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sept. 14, 1995; “Divorce 101: Class a must for parents …”)

In January of 1992, Judge Farragut-Hemphill spoke at a program in St. Louis commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King. “The dream is not dead,” she said. “I stood before you today a product of the dream.” She joined others during the program in praising King as a noble leader. “The dream is not dead,” she said. “I stand today, speakers urge”)…

In the News

“… (M)any in the legal community are optimistic about the newly created Domestic Violence Court in St. Louis County. … One of the most significant changes is that three judges will exclusively handle all domestic violence cases. Previously, judges rotated in and out of the docket. Judge Ellen Levy Siwak (and two other judges) volunteered to work on the new docket. … The fact that the judges on the court voluntarily joined the Domestic Violence Court and showed an interest in hearing these cases is encouraging to those who work in the field. Another large change is that the court will focus on holding offenders accountable if they violate the order of protection issued by the judge – something the court didn’t do as much as it should in the past …” (Missouri Lawyers Media, April 3, 2009: “St. Louis County’s Domestic Violence Court off to good start”)

In 2014, Judge Siwak denied a request to release the juvenile records of Michael Brown who had been shot and killed on August 9, 2014. The Post-Dispatch petitioned the court for the release of records, “argued last week that Brown’s juvenile records, if he had any, should be released because of high public interest in his case.” No reason was given by Judge Siwak for refusing the request.”

Barbara W. Wallace
Division 13
Judge Wallace was appointed circuit judge in December 1995 by Gov. Mel Carnahan. She became the first woman to serve as a presiding judge in the 21st Judicial Circuit in January 2001. Serves on statewide Circuit Court Budget Committee and Trial Judge Education Committee; has taught evidence at all the Judicial Colleges and New Judge Orientations for the last 10 years. Serves along with three other judges on the county’s Domestic Violence Court. Education: Undergraduate and law degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. Member: Missouri Bar, St. Louis County Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association (past president), Lawyers Association (past president); Adjunct professor of trial advocacy at St. Louis University Law School. No church affiliation listed.

In the News

“…Parents of 14 boys who were sexually assaulted by (a man) have gotten their wish – a lengthy prison sentence … Instead of getting probation, he was sentenced by St. Louis County Circuit Court Judge Barbara Wallace to 15 years in prison. ‘I felt very uncomfortable letting him out onto the street,’ Wallace said.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Nov. 21, 1997: “Man is sentenced to 15 years in sexual assault case...”)

Gloria Clark Reno
Division 19
Born in St. Louis, Missouri. Judge Reno was appointed a circuit judge in April 2009 by Gov. Nixon, prior to that she served as an associate circuit judge since 2002. Prior to her appointment to the bench, was the senior trial attorney at the Hale Law Firm. From 1994 to appointment to the state judiciary, served as the Municipal Judge for the City of Northwoods in St. Louis County. Sat as a Special Judge on the Missouri Supreme Court. Undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and law degree from St. Louis University. Member: Missouri Bar, Mound City Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association, National Association of Women Judges, and the Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges. From 2002-2006, volunteered as a truancy court judge; member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, the Links, Inc., and is a board member of Cardinal Ritter Senior Services. She attends Olivet Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis.

In the News

“As Judge Gloria Reno prepares to become the first African-American woman to serve as a circuit court judge in St. Louis County, she says she understands the responsibilities that lay ahead and she is ready. … ‘She is very committed and dedicated,’ said former Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronnie L. White, who has known Reno for 20 years. ‘She has a great judicial temperament. I’m excited about how well she has progressed through her legal career, and she will continue to make substantial contributions to the law as the newest circuit court judge for St. Louis County.’ … Working hard, getting an education and striving for excellence was instilled in Reno and all of her siblings, she said, adding that all of them had the opportunity to attend college. ‘It’s a tribute to their sacrifice,’ she said of her parents.” (St. Louis American, April 22, 2009: “Gloria Clark Reno pioneers as first black woman circuit court judge in STL County”)

Currently a case rising out of the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, following the shooting of Michael Brown, is pending before Judge Reno in St. Louis County Circuit Court regarding the lawfulness of a statute prohibiting the unlawful interference in any manner with a police officer...in the performance of his official duties....” (italics mine). The defendants in this case asked the court to “immediately invalidate the county’s ordinance” as unconstitutionally vague. Judge Reno denied this request but affirmed that the parties have standing to sue even though charges against the defendants were dismissed by the prosecutor.28
keep the church building or possessions, a judge has ruled. St. Louis County Associate Circuit Judge Mary Bruntrager Schroeder found in favor of the diocese and its U.S. parent organization. . . . [A]ttorneys for the Good Shepherd majority [voting to leave the Episcopal Church] argued that they had a right to amend their articles of association and affiliate with a different branch of the worldwide Anglican Church. Schroeder decided otherwise. She said the church had a hierarchal governing structure – from parish to diocese to national church and ‘the underlying dispute is based on theological and ecclesiastical differences.’ “ (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Oct. 20, 2004: “Opponents of gay ordination must give up church property”)

In the News

In a 2011 article on divorce and the courts, Judge Schroeder made some observations based on her experiences in Family Court. “A couple in a divorce battle may stalemate on a proposed parenting plan, but they may not get what they want in one delivered by a judge either, warned Associate Judge Mary Bruntrager Schroeder of St. Louis County. ‘I have to ask, do you want a stranger doing that for you?’ She said. ‘Wouldn’t it be better to create a realistic one of our own?’ . . . ‘There is only so much money to go around,’ Schroeder said. They can’t afford the house, so people have to move. I’ve seen children kept in private schools, while the mortgage goes unpaid.’ [The article cited stats indicating uncontested proceedings. Many, Schroeder said. ‘Divorced parents need to cooperate even going to punish one spouse, the faster they can answer their own questions and save money for their families’ future,’ Schroeder said. ‘Divorced parents need to cooperate even more than when they were living together. The faster they realize they will need each other, the better.’” (today.com/lifestyles/…/article_a56b6818-d287-11e0-9a4e-0019bb30f31a.html, Aug. 30, 2013: “Judge says parents must talk before, even more after, divorce”)

‘Parishioners at Good Shepherd Church in Town and Country, who broke away from the mainstream Episcopal Church . . . to protest the consecration of a homosexual as bishop in New Hampshire, cannot

Missouri Humanities Council, and the Catch a Falling Star board. Married and has three daughters.

Quote from his June 11, 2010, application for the judgeship, in his own words: “My father was a career non-commissioned U.S. Army officer and my mother was a first-generation German immigrant. From my father I learned the importance of sacrifice, hard work and public service; from my mother, who was never afforded the chance at a college education, I learned the importance and value of higher education, along with the importance of common sense and an even temper.

In the News

“Prior to his work as an attorney, Heggie was a financial analyst for theRalston Purina Company in St. Louis. Heggie earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and his Juris Doctorate from St. Louis University.” “Robert’s nearly 25 years of legal experience, coupled with his strong ties to the greater St. Louis area will serve the people of the 21st Circuit well,” Gov. Nixon said.19

19 SHORT LINES

“There is only one redeeming thing about this whole election. It will be over at sundown, and let everybody pray that it’s not a tie, for we couldn’t go through with this thing again.” – Will Rogers
Circuit Judge
22nd Judicial Circuit
St. Louis City

Bryan L. Hettenbach
Division 1
Judge Hettenbach was appointed to the 22nd Judicial Circuit as circuit judge in 2008 by Gov. Matt Blunt; B.A. in English literature from the University of Missouri; M.A. in English language and literature from the University of Michigan; J.D. from the University of Missouri; Staff attorney for the Missouri Supreme Court and then in private practice for 23 years. Served as a news editor for Missouri Lawyers Weekly; adjunct professor of legal studies at William Woods University. Involved with the Metro Homeless Center and the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee. No church affiliation listed.

Mark H. Neill
Division 5
Judge Neill was appointed a circuit judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit in 2002 by Gov. Bob Holden; Bachelor of Arts from St. Louis University in 1971; J.D. from St. Louis University School of Law in 1974. Served as a legal adviser to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for 11 years (1975-1986); private practice from 1986 to 2002. While in private practice, served as a hearing officer for the Civil Service Commission for the City of St. Louis, an arbitrator on labor cases, and was appointed mediator for federal civil rights cases by the U.S. District Court; Served as the lead panel attorney under the Criminal Justice Act Plan for the Eastern District of Missouri; legal adviser for Maryland Heights Police Department; city attorney and prosecuting attorney for the City of Bella Villa and the Village of Riverview. He has served as president of Parish Grounds at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; Active with St. Vincent DePaul Society, Habitat for Humanity, Backstoppers and the Charitable Society for Children.

James Edward Sullivan
Division 6
Born August 11, 1952 in Watseka, Illinois; married with two children. Judge Sullivan is a circuit court judge for the 22nd Circuit in St. Louis; appointed by Gov. Nixon in February 2015 to fill the vacancy created by retirement of Judge Thomas Grady; B.A. degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale; J.D. from St. Louis University School of Law. Served as drug court commissioner from 2003 to 2015 for the 22nd Judicial Circuit; Private practice for twenty years; served in Office of the Circuit Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, and as an administrative and municipal judge.

Philip D. Heagney
Division 11
Judge Heagney was appointed to his post as circuit judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit in April 1996 by Gov. Carnahan. B.A. from Johns Hopkins University in 1970; J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1976; Chairman of the court’s Jury Supervisory Committee; member of the court’s Public Education Committee, which works with high school students. Volunteers at the St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners to meet with and swear in people being trained as election judges. Active in St. Cronin’s Catholic Church and Parish in Forest Park; manager of St. Margaret of Scotland 6th grade boys basketball team; treasurer of Boy Scout Troop 110. Member of the Gibson Heights Neighborhood Association; block captain for his block in the city of St. Louis for Operation Brightside.

In the News
An article on the Enlightened Sentencing Project, a nonprofit meditation program used by some city judges as a condition of probation for some offenders, reported on the experiences of several judges with the project. “Judge Heagney said the program has usually helped probationers he sends. ‘Rarely do I get letters from probationers telling me that some program I sent them to really has helped them. The exception to that general rule is The Enlightened Sentencing Project,’ he said.” (Missouri Lawyers Media, Feb. 1, 2010: “Under judges’ orders, offenders in St. Louis learn meditation – and how to stay out of prison”)

“A man already facing three consecutive life terms in prison for sex abuse was sentenced in St. Louis to more prison time. Circuit Judge Philip Heagney sentenced the man ... to four life terms and between one and seven years prison time. Circuit Judge Philip Heagney sentenced the man ... to four life terms and between one and seven years on eight other child-sex charges. Most of the sentences will run at the same time. ... the judge turned down a request for a new trial saying it was a ‘close call....’ (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Dec. 9, 2005: “man who abused boys gets more prison time”)

Christopher E. McGaughrn
Division 15
Born Oct. 18, 1960 in Saint Louis; graduate of DeSmet Jesuit High School, 1979; St. Louis University, B.A., history, 1983; St. Louis University School of Law, J.D., 1987. Admitted to Missouri Bar Association, 1987; Assistant public defender, St. Louis County Trial Division, 1987–1990, Lead Counsel for Capital Litigation Unit, Missouri Public Defender Office the Eastern District, 1990–1992. From 1992 to appointment, principal in the law firm of Leritz, Plunkert and Bruning, P.C. Adjunct Professor of Law at St. Louis University School of Law and Washington University School of Law. Member of Missouri Bar Association, Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and St. Louis Lawyer Association; Appointed to the associate circuit by Gov. Nixon November 2012; Retained in 2014; Appointed to Circuit Court April 2015; Nonpartisan. Married with two children

Michael K. Mullen
Division 16
Judge Mullen was an associate circuit attorney in the 22nd Circuit Court from 1990 until 1995. In 2008, Judge Mullen was appointed as a judge of the court by Gov. Matt Blunt. Graduated from the University of Missouri with undergraduate and law degrees. Served on preliminary hearings, civil jury trials, on a civil assignment with small claims, and currently is working general trials. Member: Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, Lawyers Association and St. Gabriel Catholic Church.

In the News
In 2013 judges in the 22nd Judicial Circuit (St. Louis City) voted on a plan to expedite the handling of gun cases by assigning certain crimes equally to the judges rather than a counter proposal to designate two judges to hear all targeted cases. The judges heard requests from Mayor Slay, the City prosecutor’s office, and the chief of police for the metropolitan police department but in the end rejected their plan. The plan, which was selected, moves certain gun related cases to the top of each judge’s docket and sets immediate trial dates.

SHORT LINES
HEADLINE: Missouri officials considering opening a special hospital to treat tuberculosis
St. Louis Post Dispatch
(Kurt Erickson, Septemter 28, 2016)
TB was almost eradicated before the influx of migrants. Any connection?
Court Watch from p10

David C. Mason
Division 17
Judge Mason was appointed as a circuit judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit in August 1991 by Gov. John Ashcroft. Bachelor of Science degree in 1980 from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN; J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 1983; Prior to his appointment to the bench, served as assistant attorney general and general counsel to the Missouri Department of Corrections. Has served on the St. Louis Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority and as a commissioner for the St. Louis American Law Institute; honorary membership in the American Board of Trial Lawyers. Has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Washington University School of Law for 20 years. In 1999 became the first recipient of the Washington University School of Law Distinguished Young Alumnus Award; Habitat for Humanity Homecoming Award in 2005; Thomas D. Cochran Award for community service from the Missouri Bar in 1991; Board of directors of the St. Patrick Center and the Regional Housing Community Development Alliance. Founding chairman of the Grand-Rock Community Redevelopment Corp. He and his wife have two sons.

In the News

"... Some city judges require participation in the little-known (Enlightened Sentencing Project) program as a condition of probation, generally for people facing charges for drug or alcohol use or property crimes, not those convicted of violent offenses and sentenced to long terms in prison. ... The technique seems deceptively simple: people sit comfortably, close their eyes and repeat a mantra in their minds for about 20 minutes, twice daily. Those learning as part of their probation attend class two evenings a week for 90 days to ensure they master the technique. ... The meditation option for offenders started more than a decade ago, when Farrokh Anklesaria started sending people who were on probation to learn meditation in 1996. Mason has ordered more than 200 people through the program. Of those offenders, he said the technique "not at all" and 5 representing "completely." He received his highest scores for: being prepared for hearings and trials (4.55); efficiently managing his docket (4.46); issuing timely opinions/ decisions (4.43); and treating people equally regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, economic status, or any other factor (4.43). Judge Frawley's lower scores were for: demonstrating appropriate demeanor on the bench (3.92); allowing parties latitude to present their arguments (3.98); displaying fairness and impartiality towards each side of a case (4.11); and weighing all evidence fairly and impartially before rendering a decision (4.14).

The committee also reviewed survey responses submitted by jurors who were seated in jury trials before Judge Frawley. Judge Frawley never received an approval rating below 98 percent on any of the 10 categories on which he was rated regarding his conduct throughout the jury trials. The committee also reviewed written opinions by Judge Frawley. His opinions were well reasoned, with easy-to-follow explanations, competent in the law, and adhered closely to precedent as well as to constitutional and statutory law."

Robin Ransom Vannoy
Division 30
Born July 21, 1967, in St. Louis; Judge Vannoy was appointed circuit judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit in September 2008 by Gov. Matt Blunt. Previously served as a Family Court Commissioner from December 2002 until September 2008; returned to Family Court in January 2009 after her appointment to the circuit court; B.A. in political science and sociology from Rutgers University (1988); J.D. from the University of Missouri in 1991. Serves on the Family Court committee and the Committee on Access to the Family Courts (served on the Family Court Improvement Project from 2006 to 2009); Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, past board member, 2005-2009. Member of Memorial Baptist Church; Sunday school teacher from 1993-2007; church treasurer from 2005-2006; Past board member of the Wilson School; volunteer mentor with Big Brothers/Big Sisters from 2001-2005; Guest speaker for One Heart Ministries and Hope for Kids to encourage individuals to adopt. Received the Clarence Darrow Award from St. Louis University School of Law in 1998.

Thomas C. Clark II
Division 14
Born December 12, 1966, in Kansas City, Missouri. Graduated from the University of Kansas in May of 1990 (Bachelor's degrees in journalism and history); M.A. in public administration from St. Louis University in May of 1993; J.D. from St. Louis University in January of 1998. Appointed associate circuit judge of the 22nd Judicial Circuit in February of 2006 by Gov. Matt Blunt. Served as an assistant circuit attorney in the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office from May 1998 to February 2006. Prior to practicing law, worked as an assistant to the executive director of the St. Louis Housing Authority from April 1993 to December 1995. Community activities: Boy Scouts of America (merit badge counselor, Eagle Scouts and Sachem in the Tribe of Mic-o-Say); selected in Leadership in St. Louis program/ Focus (class of 2004-2005); elected to the board of the Young Lawyers Section of the Missouri Bar; member of St. James the Greater Catholic Church; member of Knights of Columbus.

Nicole Colbert-Botchway
Division 24
Born in St. Louis, Missouri; Graduate of St. Louis University, B.A.; St. Louis University School of Law, J.D.; University of Missouri-St. Louis, M.B.A. Served as an Administrative Hearing Commissioner for the State of Missouri when appointed to the associate circuit bench by Gov. Nixon on July 2, 2015; assistant circuit attorney for the St. Louis City Circuit Attorney's Office. Elected to the Missouri Bar Board of Governors and has served in several bar and community leadership roles. Membership/Associations: St. Alphonsus Liguori; “Rock” Catholic Church; American Bar Association; Missouri Bar Association; National Bar Association–Judicial Council; Mound City Bar Association; Women Lawyer’s Association of Greater St. Louis; Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis; and Lawyers Association of St. Louis. Appointed July 2, 2015. Term expires Dec. 31, 2016.

Robin Ransom Vannoy
Division 30
Born July 21, 1967, in St. Louis; Judge Vannoy was appointed circuit judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit in September 2008 by Gov. Matt Blunt. Previously served as a Family Court Commissioner from December 2002 until September 2008; returned to Family Court in January 2009 after her appointment to the circuit court; B.A. in political science and sociology from Rutgers University (1988); J.D. from the University of Missouri in 1991. Serves on the Family Court committee and the Committee on Access to the Family Courts (served on the Family Court Improvement Project from 2006 to 2009); Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, past board member, 2005-2009. Member of Memorial Baptist Church; Sunday school teacher from 1993-2007; church treasurer from 2005-2006; Past board member of the Wilson School; volunteer mentor with Big Brothers/Big Sisters from 2001-2005; Guest speaker for One Heart Ministries and Hope for Kids to encourage individuals to adopt. Received the Clarence Darrow Award from St. Louis University School of Law in 1998.

Thomas C. Clark II
Division 14
Born December 12, 1966, in Kansas City, Missouri. Graduated from the University of Kansas in May of 1990 (Bachelor's degrees in journalism and history); M.A. in public administration from St. Louis University in May of 1993; J.D. from St. Louis University in January of 1998. Appointed associate circuit judge of the 22nd Judicial Circuit in February of 2006 by Gov. Matt Blunt. Served as an assistant circuit attorney in the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office from May 1998 to February 2006. Prior to practicing law, worked as an assistant to the executive director of the St. Louis Housing Authority from April 1993 to December 1995. Community activities: Boy Scouts of America (merit badge counselor, Eagle Scouts and Sachem in the Tribe of Mic-o-Say); selected in Leadership in St. Louis program/ Focus (class of 2004-2005); elected to the board of the Young Lawyers Section of the Missouri Bar; member of St. James the Greater Catholic Church; member of Knights of Columbus.

Nicole Colbert-Botchway
Division 24
Born in St. Louis, Missouri; Graduate of St. Louis University, B.A.; St. Louis University School of Law, J.D.; University of Missouri-St. Louis, M.B.A. Served as an Administrative Hearing Commissioner for the State of Missouri when appointed to the associate circuit bench by Gov. Nixon on July 2, 2015; assistant circuit attorney for the St. Louis City Circuit Attorney's Office. Elected to the Missouri Bar Board of Governors and has served in several bar and community leadership roles. Membership/Associations: St. Alphonsus Liguori; “Rock” Catholic Church; American Bar Association; Missouri Bar Association; National Bar Association–Judicial Council; Mound City Bar Association; Women Lawyer’s Association of Greater St. Louis; Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis; and Lawyers Association of St. Louis. Appointed July 2, 2015. Term expires Dec. 31, 2016.

cont’d next page

SHORT LINES
Star Spangled Banner
Conscientious Americans can rest easy. When they sing the 3rd verse (or any verse) of the Star Spangled Banner, they’re celebrating the brave men at Fort McHenry holding off invading British forces. NOT celebrating slavery.
Conservative Review, August 30, 2016
Calea Stovall-Reid  
Division 26  
Born October 14, 1960, in Springfield, Massachusetts. B.A. from Howard University in 1982; J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 1990; Appointed in February 2003 as an associate St. Louis Circuit Court Judge by Gov. Holden. Previously served in St. Louis as an assistant public defender, later as assistant circuit attorney for two years, and was corporate counsel for the St. Louis Housing Authority lawyer from 1997-2003. Member: Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater St. Louis; Mound City Bar Assn.; Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges; Imani AME Church, board of advisors for the South City YMCA, Zeta Phi Beta sorority; married with two daughters.

**Judge Ronald Moser**  
Division 26  
Born October 14, 1960, in Springfield, Massachusetts. B.A. from Howard University in 1982; J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 1990; Appointed in February 2003 as an associate St. Louis Circuit Court Judge by Gov. Holden. Previously served in St. Louis as an assistant public defender, later as assistant circuit attorney for two years, and was corporate counsel for the St. Louis Housing Authority lawyer from 1997-2003. Member: Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater St. Louis; Mound City Bar Assn.; Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges; Imani AME Church, board of advisors for the South City YMCA, Zeta Phi Beta sorority; married with two daughters.

---

**Circuit Judge 31st Judicial Circuit Greene County**

Jason R. Brown  
Division 3  
Born January 11, 1963, in St. Louis; Judge Brown holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Missouri in 1985; J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1988; Private practice attorney for 16 years in Kansas City and Springfield, Missouri; Appointed associate circuit judge, Division 22, January 2005 by Gov. Nixon; Elected November 2006 and retained in 2010 and 2014; Appointed circuit judge, Division 3, July 2015 to fill an unexpired term; Board member with the Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Judges; member of the civil infractions working committee of the Office of State Courts Administrator; member and former board member of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association; volunteer judge for the Greene County Teen Court; Professionalism Committee of the Missouri Bar; currently serves on the board of the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch; advisor for the Leadership Springfield Academy; served in the past on Springfield Little Theatre, Lakes Country Rehab Center and Springfield Southeast Rotary boards. In October 2009, voted “Best Associate Judge” in the Missouri Lawyers Weekly readers’ poll. No church affiliation listed.

James Ronald Carrier  
Division 26  

---

**RETURN COUPON**

Send to: FRONT LINE, PO Box 37054, St. Louis, MO 63141

Name_________________________ Phone_________________________

Address_______________________

City ___________________________ State _______ Zip ________

E-mail_________________________

I want to help FRONT LINE continue the work of this important publication with a donation of $___________.

I would like to distribute bulk copies of FRONT LINE. Please send me _____ copies. (50 copies = $42; 100 copies = $68; 150 copies = $91; 200 copies = $113; 300 copies = $177; 500 copies = $257) (Includes S&H)

Enclosed is a check for $________ or

Card # ______ / ______ / ______ / ______ Exp. date ______ / _____ CVS Code _____