



For Immediate Release:
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Judicial Panel Accepting Applications to Fill Vacancy in Summit County Court

Columbus, Ohio – The Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel is currently accepting applications to fill a vacant seat on the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, General Division. The vacancy will occur on March 31, 2008 as a result of the retirement of Judge Marvin A. Shapiro.

Applicants for the Court of Common Pleas position must be a resident and registered elector of Summit County and not yet 70 years old on the day they begin their duties, as dictated by Ohio law. In addition, they must be admitted to practice law in Ohio and have maintained their legal license for six years prior to assuming the judicial post or served as a judge of a court of record in any jurisdiction in the United States.

The term of the Summit County appointment will extend until April 30, 2009. To continue service in the position, the appointee must run in the November 2008 judicial election.

In the case of all judicial vacancies, applicants must follow the guidelines set forth by Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel to ensure their eligibility for appointment.

Applications must be submitted directly to the judicial panel and will then be distributed to the at-large and regional panel members. Details and the full text of the application procedure are available on the Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendations Panel's website at www.ojarp.org.

Requirements for all applicants include submitting a letter of interest, resume, panel questionnaire at <http://governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/OJARP/OJARP%20questionnaire.pdf> and no more than six letters of recommendation.

All materials submitted by applicants for a judicial vacancy will be considered public

record under Ohio law. Applicant communication with panel members must be directed to the entire panel; all attempts to contact or influence a panel member are prohibited. Applicant questions and concerns should be addressed to Kent Markus or Jeff Ruppert in the Governor's Office at (614) 466-3555.

Applications for the Summit County appointment must be received by Friday, March 7, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

Candidates must be available to interview in person on Friday, March 21, 2008 in Columbus. Individual candidate times and interview locations will be determined at a later date.

Governor Strickland has selected the following individuals to serve on the regional committee for the current Summit County vacancy:

Pat Darrow – Secretary-Treasurer and Business Manager, Teamsters Local 348

Edward Gilbert – Attorney, Gilbert Law Offices

Max Rothal – City of Akron Law Director

Kathryn Belfance – Attorney, Kathryn A. Belfance & Associates, LLC

Anne Connell-Freund – Executive Vice President of Operations, Oriana House and Vice-Chair, Summit County Children Services Board

Marco Sommerville – President, Akron City Council

At-large panel members assigned are:

Janet E. Jackson, Chair - President and CEO of United Way of Central Ohio

Meg Flack - Board Member of the Ohio League of Women Voters

Doloris Learmonth - Managing partner at Peck Shaffer and Williams LLP in Cincinnati

Joy Malek Oldfield – Partner at Hill Hardman Oldfield, LLC, in Akron

Charles “Rocky” Saxbe – Former state representative, currently a senior partner in the Columbus law firm of Chester, Wilcox and Saxbe, LLP