



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

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Judicial Panel Accepting Applications to Fill Vacancy on Allen County Court of Common Pleas

Columbus, Ohio – The Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel is currently accepting applications to fill a vacant seat on the Allen County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile and Probate Divisions, due to the retirement of Judge David Kinworthy.

Applicants for the Court of Common Pleas position must be a resident and registered elector of Allen 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 Allen County appointment will extend until January 2, 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 the 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 judicial panel's section of the governor's Web site, <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/>.

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.

Additional details about OJARP and the application process can be found at <http://ojarp.org/>.

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 Allen County appointment must be received by 5 p.m. October 9.

Candidates must be available to interview in person on October 25 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 panel for the current Allen County vacancy:

Rick Siferd, partner, Siferd & McCluskey, LPA
Frank Lamar, Perry Township Trustee
Leslie Rigali, business development consultant
Farley Banks, sole practitioner, Law Offices of Farley Banks
Gary Frueh, president, UAW 1765 Retirees Chapter
Ken Piercefield, division manager, Mid-American Cleaning

At-Large Panel Members:

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 senior partner in the Columbus law firm of Chester, Wilcox and Saxbe, LLP