



For Immediate Release:
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OJARP Accepting Applications for Judicial Vacancies in Clermont County, Montgomery County and Akron

Columbus, Ohio – The Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel (OJARP) is currently accepting applications to fill future vacancies on the Clermont County and Montgomery County Courts of Common Pleas. OJARP is also accepting applications to fill three future vacant seats on the Akron Municipal Court. Each vacancy will occur as a result of the November 2008 judicial elections.

Specific information on each future vacancy is included below this general information for applying:

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 Web site www.ojarp.org.

Requirements for all applicants include submitting a letter of interest, resume, panel questionnaire at www.ojarp.org, and no more than six letters of recommendation.

Additional details about OJARP and the application process can be found at the Governor's Web site at www.governor.ohio.gov.

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 each vacancy must be received by 5 p.m. December 23.

Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas

The Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas seat will be vacated on February 2 due to the election of Judge Jeffrey E. Froelich to assume duties on the 2nd District Court of Appeals.

Applicants for the Montgomery County position must be a resident and registered elector of Montgomery 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.

To continue service in the position, the appointee must run in the November 2010 judicial election.

Candidates must be available to interview in person in Columbus on January 16. 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 Montgomery County vacancy:

Gary Leppla, attorney, Leppla Associates and Counselors at Law; current president of the Ohio State Bar Association

Tom Ritchie, regional director of AFSCME Ohio Council 8

Tom Hagel, professor of law at the University of Dayton School of Law

Willie Walker, retired president of the Dayton Urban League

Stacy M. Thompson, vice president of community development for KeyBank; member of the Dayton City Schools Board of Education

Mark Owens, clerk of courts for Dayton Municipal Courts

At-large panel members:

James Ray (panel chair), retired judge, Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

John Kulewicz, attorney, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP

Betty Davis, president, Community Concepts, Inc.

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

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

Clermont County Court of Common Pleas

The Clermont County Court of Common Pleas seat will be vacated on January 1 due to the election of Judge Robert Ringland to serve on the 12th District Court of Appeals.

Applicants for the Clermont County position must be a resident and registered elector of Clermont 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.

To continue service in the position, the appointee must run in the November 2010 judicial election.

Candidates must be available to interview in person in Columbus on January 15. 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 Montgomery County vacancy:

Paul Campbell, retired, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of American, Ohio Local 2

Gregg Conrad, member of the Pierce Township Board of Trustees

Tom Rodenberg, attorney and Clermont County Sheriff

Greg Napolitano, attorney, Laufman, Jensen and Napolitano, LLC

Terry McCoy, retired teacher and former president of the Loveland Teachers Association

Cynthia Macke, vice president of sales and marketing, Clermont County Chamber of Commerce

At-large panel members:

James Ray (panel chair), retired judge, Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

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

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

Betty Davis, president, Community Concepts, Inc.

Isabel Framer, court certified Spanish/English interpreter; chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Translators

Akron Municipal Court

The Akron Municipal Court will experience three vacancies. The first seat will be vacated as of January 3 due to the election of Judge Lynne Callahan to serve on the Summit County Court of Common Pleas. The second vacancy will occur on January 5 due to the election of Judge Alison McCarty to also serve on the Summit County Court of Common Pleas. The third vacancy, which will occur on February 9, is due to Judge Eve Belfance's election to the 9th District Court of Appeals.

Applicants for the Akron Municipal Court position must be a resident and registered elector

of Akron 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.

To continue service in the position, the appointees must run in the November 2009 judicial election.

Candidates must be available to interview in person in Columbus on January 7 and 8. 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 three Akron Municipal Court vacancies:

Judge Jane Bond retired judge, Summit County Court of Common Pleas

Ed Gilbert, attorney, Edward Gilbert Co., LPA

Steve Stock, business agent for Local 306 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Garry Money Penny, chief deputy for the Summit County Sheriff's Office

Cathy Stephens, president of Canal Construction and Trucking

Michael Cassetty, attorney, Cassetty and Muse Co., LPA

At-large panel members:

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

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

Isabel Framer, court certified Spanish/English interpreter; chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Translators

John Kulewicz, attorney, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP

Betty Davis, president, Community Concepts, Inc.

