



For Immediate Release:
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Judicial Panel Accepting Applications to Fill Vacancy on Mansfield Municipal Court

Columbus, Ohio- The Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel is currently accepting applications to fill a vacant seat on the Mansfield Municipal Court.

The seat will become vacant on December 31, 2009 due to the retirement of Judge Jeff Payton.

Applicants for the Mansfield Municipal Court position must be a resident and registered elector of the City of Mansfield, the townships of Madison, Springfield, Sandusky, Franklin, Weller, Mifflin, Troy, Washington, Monroe, Perry, Jefferson, and Worthington or sections 35-36-31 and 32 of Butler township, in Richland county.

Applicants must not yet be 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 2011 municipal general 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. Additional details about OJARP and the application process can be found on the OJARP Web site at www.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 Mansfield Municipal Court appointment must be received by 5 p.m. November 30, 2009.

Candidates must be available to interview in person on December 11 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 Mansfield Municipal Court vacancy:

Gary Feagin – owner, Gary D. Feagin Insurance Agency, Inc.

Billie Brandon – legal dispute mediator; board member, Mid Ohio Educational Service Center and Pioneer Career and Technology Center

Robert Whitney – partner, Inscore, Rinehardt, Whitney & Enderle Co., LPA

Hillary Rinehardt – partner, Rinehardt Law Firm

Ron Davis – president, Richland / Crawford County AFL-CIO

Paulette Hankins – director, Richland County Board of Elections

At-large panel members:

Marianna Brown Bettman (chair), professor, University of Cincinnati College of Law; former judge, First District Court of Appeals

Doloris Learmonth – partner, Peck Shaffer and Williams LLP

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

Derric D. McDonald – patrol officer, Dayton Police Department

Betty Davis – president, Community Concepts, Inc.