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Chief Judge Merlin Wheeler

Merlin Wheeler reappointed chief judge of 5th Judicial District

TOPEKA — Chief Justice Lawton R. Nuss announced today the Supreme Court has reappointed Judge Merlin Wheeler to a two-year term as chief judge of the 5th Judicial District, effective January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2019.

Wheeler has served as district judge in the 5th Judicial District since 1990 and as chief judge since 1998. He presides over cases in Lyon and Chase counties.

"We are glad that Judge Wheeler agreed to serve another two years as chief judge, providing continuity in capable leadership in the 5th Judicial District," said Nuss.

"The Kansas judiciary faces a number of challenges in the future, including obtaining adequate funding and integrating technology into the judicial process. It will be an exciting time as we work to meet those challenges," Wheeler said. "I appreciate very much the opportunity to be a part of this process along with the support I have been given by the Supreme Court, fellow judges, and staff as we look to the future."

Wheeler is a graduate of Emporia State University and Washburn University School of Law. He served as city attorney for Emporia and was in private practice there. He has served as an assigned judge for both the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

Each of Kansas' 31 judicial districts has a chief judge who, in addition to his or her judicial responsibilities, has general control over case assignments within the district, as well as general supervisory authority over the administrative and clerical functions of the court.

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