



Kansas Courts News Release

Office of Judicial Administration

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3rd Judicial District Nominating Commission to interview nominees for vacancy in Shawnee County

TOPEKA—The 3rd Judicial District Nominating Commission will convene May 17 to interview nominees to fill the vacancy created by the July 31, 2018, retirement of District Judge Joseph D. Johnson.

The 3rd Judicial District is composed of Shawnee County.

The nominees are:

- Athena E. Andaya, Topeka
- Jay D. Befort, Topeka
- Brett W. Berry, Topeka
- Richard P. Billings, Topeka
- Darian P. Dernovish, Topeka
- Mark D. Dodd, Topeka
- Jessica G. Domme, Tecumseh
- Jason "Jake" K. Fisher, Silver Lake
- Penny R. Moylan, Topeka
- Rachel L. Pickering, Topeka
- Steven M. Roth, Topeka
- Jennifer L. Martin Smith, Topeka
- Todd M. Thornburg, Topeka
- Kelly J. Trussell, Topeka
- John Paul D. Washburn, Topeka
- Cheryl L. Whelan, Topeka

The nominating commission will convene at 9 a.m. Thursday, May 17, in the Shawnee County Courthouse to interview the nominees. Interviews are open to the public.

Nominees for district judge must be:

- at least 30 years old;
- a lawyer admitted to practice in Kansas and engaged in the practice of law for at least five years, whether as a lawyer, judge, or full-time teacher at an accredited law school; and
- a resident of Shawnee County at the time of taking office and while holding office.

The commission will select from three to five nominees whose names will be submitted to the governor to fill the position according to statutory qualification and residency requirements. If there are not three nominees who reside in the judicial district who are deemed qualified by the commission, the commission may consider nominees who live outside the district. The governor has 60 days after receiving the names to decide whom to appoint.

The 3rd Judicial Nominating Commission consists of Justice Marla J. Luckert of the Kansas Supreme Court as the nonvoting chair; Terry E. Beck, Daniel W. Crow, Thomas G. Lemon, Jolene C. Miller, and W. Eric Stafford, all of Topeka; and Toby L. McCullough of Rossville.

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