

APPELLATE JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Guidelines for References

Letters of references for applicants for the vacancy on the Supreme Court of Missouri, created by the resignation of Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., should be sent **by e-mail only** to Chair, the Appellate Judicial Commission, in care of judgevacancy@courts.mo.gov. If you do not have access to e-mail, you may send your reference letter to the Honorable Laura Denvir Stith, chair of the commission, at the attached address.

Please do not telephone or write commissioners directly.

Your e-mailed letters must be received no later than **5 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, 2008**. Reference letters will be held in the strictest confidence during the process of selecting the three nominees. Letters should contain the following information:

1. The name of the person for whom you are giving a reference should be listed in the e-mail subject line.
2. Your acquaintance with the applicant, including length of acquaintance and familiarity with personal and professional qualifications.
3. The applicant's qualifications as a lawyer, including educational background, fields of law with which the applicant is familiar, and the applicant's aptitude for doing the regular work of an appellate judge in evaluating briefs, hearing oral argument, and writing reasoned and scholarly opinions.
4. The applicant's performance as practitioner, teacher, judge or otherwise in the legal profession. For a practicing lawyer, this might include comment about forensic ability, thoroughness of preparation, trustworthiness, and courtesy to judges and opposing counsel. For a judge, there might be comment about soundness of rulings, courtesy and demeanor, promptness in moving cases, and ability to instill confidence in lawyers and litigants. For others, there should be discussion of the nature and depth of legal work.
5. Personal qualifications, including reputation in the community, activity in civic and charitable organizations, public positions held, whether compensated or not, and any other qualities of character appropriate for applicants to the bench.



APPELLATE JUDICIAL COMMISSION
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MEMBERS

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