Appellate Judicial Commission
Guidelines for References for the Judge Mitchell Vacancy
Missouri Court of Appeals

Letters of references for applicants for the vacancy on the Missouri Court of Appeals created by the retirement of Judge Karen King Mitchell should be sent **by e-mail only** to the Appellate Judicial Commission at WDJudgeVacancy@courts.mo.gov. In the e-mail subject line, please provide the name of the person for whom you are giving a reference.

If you do not have access to e-mail, you may send your reference letter to the commission at the attached address. ***Please do not telephone or write commissioners directly***.

Your letters must be ***received*** no later than **5 p.m. Tuesday, December 1, 2026**. Reference letters will be held in confidence (but will be shared with the governor, should the applicant be nominated) and should contain the following information:

1. Your acquaintance with the applicant, including length of acquaintance and familiarity with personal and professional qualifications.

2. 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 doingthe regular work of an appellate judge in evaluating briefs, hearing oral argument, and writing reasoned and scholarly opinions.

3. The applicant's performance as practitioner, teacher, judge or otherwise in the legal profession. For a practicing lawyer, this might include comments about forensic ability, thoroughness of preparation, trustworthiness, and courtesy to judges and opposingcounsel. For a judge, there might be comments 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.

4. Personal qualifications, including reputation in the community, activity in civicand charitable organizations, public positions held, whether compensated or not, and anyother qualities of character appropriate for applicants to the bench.

Enclosure



Appellate Judicial Commission

Post Office Box 150
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Members

The Honorable W. Brent Powell
Chair, Appellate Judicial Commission
Supreme Court of Missouri
Post Office Box 150
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mr. Jeffrey Bauer, Esquire, Springfield, Missouri

Ms. Connie Cierpiot, Lee's Summit, Missouri

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