

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

Letters of references for applicants for the vacancy on the Missouri Court of Appeals created by the appointment of Judge Cristian M. Stevens to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri should be sent **by e-mail only** to the Appellate Judicial Commission at [EDJudgeVacancy@courts.mo.gov](mailto:EDJudgeVacancy@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. Thursday, October 23, 2025**. Reference letters will be held in confidence 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 doing the 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 opposing counsel. 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 civic and charitable organizations, public positions held, whether compensated or not, and any other qualities of character appropriate for applicants to the bench.

Enclosure



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**Members**

The Honorable W. Brent Powell  
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