

**SEVENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**  
**Associate Circuit Judge Vacancy**  
**Instructions for Applicants**

1. All applicants should review Supreme Court Rules 10.28 and 10.31 pertaining to the judicial selection process.
2. Complete and mail or deliver the original and one copy of the application, flat and unfolded, to The Honorable Alok Ahuja, Chair of the Commission, at the address listed below. Mail or deliver one copy of the completed application, flat and unfolded, to the other Commission members as listed below. **Your application must be received by 4:30 p.m. on September 25, 2015**, to be considered by the Commission.
3. Attach your photograph or a copy of your photograph to the original and to each copy of the application to assist the Commission in identifying applicants.
4. List no more than five persons as references who can attest to your personal and professional qualifications for the position of Associate Circuit Judge. Do not include as a reference any active judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit.
5. Your references must mail or deliver the original and one copy of the letter of reference to the Commission Chair and mail or deliver one copy of the letter of reference to the other Commission members. **All reference letters must be received by 4:30 pm on September 25, 2015**, to be considered by the Commission.
6. Applicants will be interviewed by the Commission on October 26, 2015, at the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court, James S. Rooney Justice Center, 11 S. Water, Liberty, MO 64068. You will be notified of the specific time for your interview at least one week in advance. The interviews will be open to the public; however, applicants should not attend the interviews of other applicants
7. Individual commissioners may be willing to meet informally with applicants prior to the public interviews. Applicants should contact commissioners directly to inquire.
7. Members of the Seventh Circuit Judicial Commissioners are:

**The Honorable Alok Ahuja** (Chair)  
Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District  
1300 Oak Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
816-889-3601

**Mr. Ben T. Schmitt, Esq.**  
Schmitt Mulhern, LLC  
3100 Broadway St.  
Suite 1420  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
816-389-4014

**Mt. James H. Thompson, Jr.**  
1 Town Square.  
Kansas City, MO 64116  
816-471-3414

**Dr. Lancer G. Gates**  
2008 NE 106<sup>th</sup> Terrace  
Kansas City, MO 64155  
816-968-9320

**Mr. Jason Starr**  
1575 Smiley Street  
Liberty, MO 64068  
816- 797-0427

SUPREME COURT RULE 10.28  
PUBLICITY

(a) When a vacancy occurs or when it is known that a vacancy will occur at a definite future date, the chairman shall publicize the same and solicit the submission of names of individuals qualified for such vacancy. Prior to the meeting of the commission an appropriate questionnaire shall be sent to each person whose name is proposed, to be completed and returned to the chairman of the commission. Copies of the completed questionnaire shall be provided each member of the commission prior to the meeting called for the taking of the formal action by the commission in making its nominations.

(b) No publicity shall be given by the commission of the names of persons under consideration for nomination for the reason that such publicity would tend to keep well qualified lawyers from permitting themselves to be considered and might encourage unqualified persons to enter their names to obtain public notice. The commission may submit the names of applicants to others on a confidential basis for the purpose of securing appropriate background information to the extent authorized by the applicants' signed written waivers.

(c) Any meeting called for the purpose of taking formal action in making nominations necessarily involves discussion of applicants' personal information and shall, therefore, be a closed meeting. All matters discussed at said meeting, except the matters contained in the certificate of nomination, shall be kept confidential.

(d) The commission shall publicly release information relating to the number and characteristics of the applicants prior to the meeting at which formal action is taken, but it shall not release any personally identifiable information about any person not included in the certificate of nomination.

(e) Within 72 hours of submitting the certificate of nomination, the commission shall transmit to the governor the applications and other information submitted to the commission pertaining to the persons contained in the certificate of nomination. Within the same time, the commission shall make public a copy of the applications submitted by the persons included in the certificate of nomination, but with personal or confidential information redacted.

SUPREME COURT RULE 10.31  
CANDIDACY AND SELECTION OF JUDGES

The conduct of candidates for any judicial office to be filled pursuant to sections 25 (a)-(g) of article V of the Missouri Constitution shall be governed by and be in accord with the applicable provisions of the rules of professional conduct and canons of judicial ethics. In particular the aspiration of lawyers for judicial position should be governed by an impartial estimate of their ability to add honor to the office and not by a desire for the distinction the position may bring to themselves. If a judge, or a person in an office of a judicial nature, becomes a candidate, he should refrain from all conduct that might tend to arouse reasonable suspicion that he is using the power or prestige of his judicial position to promote his candidacy. He should not permit others to do anything in behalf of his candidacy which would reasonably lead to such suspicion.

It is the duty of the bar to endeavor to prevent partisan considerations, political or otherwise, from outweighing judicial fitness in the selection of judges. The bar should protest earnestly and actively against the selection of those who are unsuitable for the bench.