



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
415 EAST 12TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106

Mary Jacobi
Public Information Officer
816-881-3552

For Release: October 9, 2008
Immediately

**16th Circuit Judge
Selected as
Best Circuit Court Judge in the State**



Judge Michael Manners, presiding in Division 2, 16th Circuit, Independence Courthouse, has been selected as Best Circuit Court Judge in the State by Missouri's lawyers, voting in a state-wide poll conducted by the *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* publication.

Judge Manners was first appointed to the bench by Governor Roger Wilson. His 24 years of experience as a trial attorney with the firm that eventually became Welch, Martin, & Albano is part of what makes him one of the best on the bench.

Judge Manners graduated from Central Missouri State University summa cum laude with a B.A. in history and political science. He later attended Georgetown University, where he worked on his Master's degree in government, and the University of Missouri at Kansas City Law School, where he obtained his J.D. degree.

His past honors include serving as President of the Eastern Jackson County Bar Association and the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys. Judge Manners has been a frequent lecturer at trial judge's educational forums and continuing legal education programs for attorneys. He was also included in the book, *The Best Lawyers in America*, before he went on the bench.

Judge W. Stephen Nixon, in tribute to Judge Manners, has said, "It is gratifying to see my colleague, Judge Michael Manners, recognized for his exemplary qualities as a Judge. Judge Manners is a true student of the law, and his analytical abilities are extraordinary. In addition to being a great trial judge, he is a valued colleague to his fellow judges. Judge Manners is always willing to share his insights on complex legal questions with his colleagues. He is a terrific team player in accomplishing the judiciary's collective goal of resolving the disputes that people and businesses bring into the legal system.

The selection criteria were open-ended. As was done last year, attorneys, paralegals, judges, legal secretaries and others could decide for themselves who is best and why. 642 people took the time to mull over categories from the serious to the frivolous. According to the publication, "Missouri's Best was simply an opportunity to give some credit to hard-working members of the legal profession."

For the second year in a row, one of the 16th Circuit Judges has been voted Best in the State. In 2007, Judge Charles Atwell was selected for the honor. When learning of the recognition of Judge Manners, Presiding Judge Peggy Stevens McGraw said, "The 16th Judicial Circuit is honored to have two of our outstanding Judges selected in consecutive years as the Best in the State. We are pleased to know that others hold Judge Manners this year and Judge Atwell last year in the high esteem that we do. Of course, we believe that every one of our Judges and Commissioners are worthy of being named Best in the State, and we look forward to next year's selection.

* * * *