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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Gov. Nixon appoints Deputy Probate Commissioner Mark Styles, Jr. as Circuit Judge in the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**

JEFFERSON CITY – **Gov. Jay Nixon** today announced the appointment of **Deputy Probate Commissioner Mark A. Styles, Jr.** as Circuit Judge in the **16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**. He will fill a vacancy created by the retirement of the **Honorable Kathleen Forsyth**.

Commissioner Styles was appointed Deputy Probate Commissioner on October 3, 2014, by Judge Forsyth. In this capacity, Commissioner Styles shares in the responsibility of administering the 16th Judicial Circuit's Probate Division. Specifically, Commissioner Styles presides over the division's mental health docket, guardianship and conservatorship docket, and miscellaneous probate docket. Prior to his appointment as Deputy Probate Commissioner, Commissioner Styles worked as an attorney with the Hardwick Law Firm, the Jackson County Public Administrator's Office, and the law firm Shook, Hardy & Bacon.

Commissioner Styles received his law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law -Texas Southern University and his undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri.

"Mark Styles is an experienced and accomplished lawyer who is committed to public service," **Gov. Nixon** said. "The people of Jackson County will continue to benefit from Commissioner Styles's intellect, dedication and trusted judgment through his new role as Circuit Judge."

Commissioner Styles was one of three applicants submitted to the Governor for consideration by the 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judicial Commission under the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan.

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