



16th Judicial Circuit of Jackson County, Missouri

NEWS RELEASE

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Judge Michael Manners to retire

Judge Michael Manners will retire on August 1, 2013 from Division 2 in Independence after almost 13 years as a circuit judge with the 16th Judicial Circuit. Even as he leaves, he just found out that he will be receiving an award for his work as a judge. In September, the Missouri Bar will honor him with the Theodore McMillian Judicial Excellence Award.

“I have loved my time on the bench, especially my dealings with juries,” said Manners. “Having presided over something like 170 jury trials, my faith in our justice system is stronger than ever.”

Manners, 62, is leaving the bench to return to private practice. He will join the law firm of Langdon & Emison which does plaintiffs’ work on a national level, although it is based in Lexington, Missouri.

“Even though I have enjoyed most of my time as a judge, I have missed the thrill of being in trial. I look forward to getting back into the arena,” Manners said.

Manners was appointed to the bench by Governor Roger Wilson on November 17, 2000. He had worked as a trial attorney for 24 years prior to his appointment. In 2008 and in 2009, he was voted “Best Circuit Judge in the State” through a statewide poll of attorneys that was conducted by the legal publication, *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*. In 2012, he received the Joseph E. Stevens, Jr. Aspire to Excellence Award presented by the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association. Manners also had the honor of being selected four times by the Appellate Judicial Commission as a candidate for a judicial opening with the Missouri Supreme Court, although an appointment from the governor was not forthcoming.

Prior to his appointment as a judge, Manners was President of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, and President of the Eastern Jackson County Bar Association. He is a 1976 graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School.

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