



16th Judicial Circuit of Jackson County, Missouri

NEWS RELEASE

For Release:
June 26, 2013

Contact: Valerie Hartman
Public Information Officer
(816) 881-3552

Judge Vernon E. Scoville to retire

Associate Circuit Judge Vernon E. Scoville is concluding his tenure on the bench this week after serving almost 22 years as a judge of the Circuit Court of Jackson County. He is retiring from Division 28 in Independence.

“The opportunity to serve the people of Missouri as a State Representative and Judge is the highest honor that can be bestowed on any person,” Scoville said. “I leave this Court in the best of hands knowing that the people are still the Supreme Law.”

Scoville was appointed in 1991. He was not new to government service. He was elected to serve as a Democratic member of the Missouri House of Representatives from 1982 to 1991. He also served in the U.S. Army from 1971 – 1974, and is a retired Major in the U.S. Army Reserve.

“I still love my job, but I believe it’s always a good time to leave while you still enjoy what you do,” Scoville said.

Since 1995, Scoville has handled the high volume dockets of criminal driving while intoxicated cases and drug offenses. He also has a caseload that includes monitoring some 1,500 people who are on probation.

Scoville says one of the most significant changes he has seen during his tenure as a judge is the electronic utilization of technology and the law. “What it is going to do is cause older judges to either embrace the technology or be left behind. Younger lawyers are growing up with technology and older lawyers are learning it. So, in about ten more years, everyone will be comfortable with it.”

Scoville says he loves to teach, and he intends to continue working as an adjunct professor at Park University where he has taught criminal justice classes since 1995. He also plans to volunteer as a practical nurse, having received a nursing degree in 2004. And, he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and four grandchildren while he is “still young enough to enjoy life.”

Scoville obtained his law degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1978, and worked as an Assistant Jackson County Prosecutor, an Assistant Public Defender, and was in private practice before his appointment to the bench.

###