



Jackson County Family Court
625 E. 26th St., Kansas City, MO 64108

NEWS RELEASE

For Release:
August 27, 2015

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Commissioner Geoffrey Allen to Retire after Career Helping Children

Jackson County Family Court Commissioner Geoffrey Allen, who has devoted his career to legal issues related to children and families, will retire on September 1st after 22 years on the bench.

“It has been a genuine pleasure serving the children and families of Jackson County for almost my entire legal career,” Allen said.

Allen was instrumental in bringing the National Adoption Day event to Jackson County. In 2009, the Family Court began setting multiple adoptions on the same day in November to call attention to the joy of adoption, and also the need for more people to adopt children who do not have a permanent home. Participation in that program has been highly successful. Last year, 34 children were adopted in Jackson County on National Adoption Day.

“Adoptions have been the most rewarding aspect of sitting in the Family Court, creating loving, permanent families for children who need and deserve them.”

Allen, 63, worked in juvenile law for 37 of the 38 years of his legal career. He was first employed with Legal Aid of Western Missouri as a Guardian ad Litem representing children in abuse, neglect and adoption cases. He also worked for the Public Defender’s office and represented juvenile delinquents. In 1986, he was appointed by the judges of the Circuit Court as the Juvenile Officer of the Family Court, and served in that position until 1993. As Juvenile Officer, he decided whether to charge juveniles for delinquent acts. In August 1993, the Circuit Court appointed him as a Family Court Commissioner. He announced in May that he would be retiring at the end of the summer.

After retirement, Allen intends to continue his public service by assisting courts around the state as a senior commissioner, and to volunteer for two of his favorite charitable organizations. Allen, who can read in several languages, also plans to take foreign language classes to enhance his speaking skills.

Allen graduated from the University of Missouri – Columbia School of Law in 1977. He obtained a Classical Studies degree from MU in 1973, and was a member of the academic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa.

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