



16th Judicial Circuit, Jackson County
415 E. 12th Street
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Judge Jack R. Grate, Jr. to Retire

Judge Jack R. Grate, Jr. has announced his retirement from the bench effective October 1, 2019. Grate was appointed as circuit judge of Division 17 by Governor Bob Holden in 2004. He will retire after 15 years of service to the 16th Judicial Circuit Court in Jackson County.

“Judge Grate has served the citizens of Jackson County with distinction,” said Presiding Judge David M. Byrn. “He is adept at quickly and accurately identifying the true issues in dispute, which has allowed him to ask direct and probing questions of the attorneys and litigants who appeared before him. The result was often a more expeditious and efficient resolution of those disputes.

“Likewise, as a valued member of the Court, his insight and opinions were important in assisting the Court to thoroughly and objectively evaluate difficult topics and make informed decisions. He will be greatly missed,” Byrn said.

Grate worked in private practice for 28 years before his appointment to the bench. He began his legal career in 1976 with Legal Aid of Western Missouri, later serving as its managing attorney in its Independence office. He was a partner with the law firm of White, Allinder, Grate & Graham from 1980 to 1995. He worked as a solo practitioner from 1995 until his appointment to the bench in 2004.

Grate obtained a bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1972, and a law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School in 1976.

He was honored as Lawyer of the Year in 1999 by the Eastern Jackson County Bar Association.

“I am grateful for the terrific opportunity to serve as circuit judge,” said Judge Jack R. Grate, Jr. “It has been a great ride.”

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