



16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Jackson County, Missouri

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Jackson County Probate Commissioner Appointed

Deputy Probate Commissioner Scott R. Manuel has been appointed as Probate Commissioner for the 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court in Jackson County. He was appointed by the judges of the circuit court at a meeting today of the court en banc.

“In addition to bringing his vast experience in probate law, Commissioner Manuel, as the deputy commissioner, has exemplified all great judicial traits that a judicial officer should possess,” said Presiding Judge Marco A. Roldan.

Manuel was appointed as deputy probate commissioner on January 3, 2014. At the time of his appointment, he was a shareholder with the law firm of Humphrey, Farrington and McClain, P.C. in Independence, Missouri, where he had practiced law for the past 24 years. His practice was primarily in the areas of estate planning, probate, trust and guardianship law.

“It’s been a privilege and an honor to serve as the deputy commissioner for the past nine months, and I look forward to serving the public and the Court in this new capacity,” Manuel said.

Manuel will be taking the place of Probate Commissioner Daniel Wheeler who is leaving the Court at the end of October to return to private practice. Wheeler was appointed as deputy probate commissioner in 2000, and probate commissioner in 2003. Wheeler will be joining the firm of Kirkland Woods & Martinsen to practice estate planning, litigation, and trust, probate and guardianship administration.

“Commissioner Wheeler leaves very big shoes to fill,” Manuel said. “He will be missed.”

Manuel joined the Court in January of this year to replace Margene Burnett as deputy probate commissioner after her appointment to circuit judge of Division 7. He is a 1984 graduate of Golden Gate University Law School in San Francisco, California. He obtained undergraduate degrees in Business Administration and Economics from Graceland University in Iowa.

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