



16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court  
Jackson County, Missouri

For Immediate Release  
October 29, 2021

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

## News Release

### New Probate Commissioner Appointed

Attorney Amy DeGraeve was appointed today as Probate Commissioner of the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit at a special meeting of the Court en Banc. DeGraeve is currently an attorney with The Counts Law Firm, LLC.

DeGraeve earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School in 2004, and a Masters of Laws in Taxation degree in 2006.

In her current practice, she specializes in fiduciary litigation, trust and probate estate administration, estate planning, income tax planning, business succession planning, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, guardianships and conservatorships.

Prior to employment at the Count Law Firm, she was an attorney with Kirkland Woods & Martinsen LLP, Lathrop & Gage LLP, and Vold & Morris Entities.

“Amy DeGraeve is an experienced attorney who understands the concerns of all parties in a case, and who has devoted much of her career to probate law,” said Presiding Judge J. Dale Youngs. “We are pleased that she will be joining the Jackson County Circuit Court as our newest commissioner.”

The Probate Court Commissioner Selection Committee interviewed candidates for the position, and then selected a panel of three applicants for recommendation to the Court en Banc. The judges voted to appoint DeGraeve who will serve a four-year term. Missouri law requires the probate commissioner to possess the same qualifications as a circuit judge.

DeGraeve has served on the Jackson County Probate Procedures Manual Revision Committee since 2015. She is a member of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association Probate and Estate Planning Committee. She has also served as a member of the Children’s Mercy Hospital Donald H. Chisholm Planned Giving Council since 2010.

DeGraeve will fill the vacancy created by the recent appointment by Governor Mike Parson of the Honorable Jerri J. Zhang as circuit judge of Division 3 upon the retirement of Judge David M. Byrn.

###