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Gov. Greitens Appoints Jalilah Otto as Circuit Judge for Jackson County

Gov. Eric Greitens has appointed Jalilah Otto of Kansas City as Circuit Court Judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit, which covers Jackson County. The position became vacant due to the retirement of the Honorable Robert M. Schieber.

Jalilah Otto has served as an Associate Circuit Judge for Jackson County since 2014. While on the bench, Judge Otto has presided over more than 250 bench trials. The Missouri Supreme Court appointed Judge Otto to serve on the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness, the Joint Commission on Women in the Profession, and the Joint Task Force on the Future of the Profession.

Prior to serving on the Associate Circuit Court, Otto worked as a Special Assistant United States Attorney and the Chief Trial Assistant in the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office. As a prosecutor, Otto tried more than 20 violent felony cases. In 2009, Otto received the Louis Lombardo Jackson County Prosecutor of the Year award.

Judge Otto received her law degree from the University of Missouri and her undergraduate degree from Tulane University.

Judge Otto is a member of the board of directors for Amethyst Place and Kansas City Youth Court, and is a former member of the board of directors for Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance and Awesome Ambitions. She volunteers at Operation Breakthrough and Jewish Vocational Services. Otto received the Urban Summit Young Professionals Award in 2012 and was named a Missouri Lawyers Weekly Rising Star in 2011.

"Judge Otto has demonstrated a commitment to justice and the rule of law throughout her career in public service," said Governor Greitens. "I am confident she will continue that commitment in her new role as circuit judge."

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