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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Gov. Nixon appoints Otto as new Associate Circuit Judge in Jackson County**

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – **Gov. Jay Nixon** today announced the appointment of **Jalilah Otto** as **Associate Circuit Judge** for the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, which covers Jackson County. The position became vacant upon the naming of the Honorable **Kenneth R. Garrett III** to the circuit bench.

Otto is the chief trial assistant for the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, where she supervises more than 20 criminal prosecutors and support staff. She also is cross-designated as a Special Assistant United States Attorney, permitting her to conduct criminal trials in both state and federal court. Otto had previously served as an assistant prosecuting attorney with the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office from 2005 to 2010. In 2010, she joined the United States Attorney’s Office as a Special Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the narcotic and gang unit, and also focused on investigating and prosecuting violent crimes committed in Kansas City and St. Joseph.

Otto has served as an adjunct professor at Metropolitan Community College and at National American University. She obtained her law degree from the University of Missouri and her bachelor’s degree from Tulane University.

“Jalilah Otto has done tremendous work as a public servant in the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office and in the U.S. Attorney’s Office prosecuting difficult cases and managing other attorneys and legal staff,” **Gov. Nixon** said. “I am pleased to appoint her as Associate Circuit Judge to serve the people of Jackson County from the bench.”

She was one of three applicants submitted to the Governor for consideration by the 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judicial Commission under the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan.

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