

16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Missouri 415 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO

For Immediate Release: November 17, 2023 Contact: Valerie Hartman Public Information Officer 816-881-3552

## **News Release**

Attorney Michelle Dixon appointed as Family Court commissioner

A new Family Court commissioner was appointed on November 17, 2023, by the judges of the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit at a meeting of the court en banc. The commissioner will hear juvenile maters at the Family Justice Center in the newly created Division 45.

The judges appointed Michelle Dixon who is currently serving as a staff attorney with the Office of Guardian ad Litem. Dixon joined the office in February 2020 and represents children who are under the jurisdiction of the Family Court due to allegations of child abuse and neglect. She also represents children who are detained pending disposition for delinquency.

Prior to that, she was in private practice as the founding and managing attorney of MP Law, LLC from 2010 to 2020. Dixon had a diverse solo legal practice which included representation as guardian ad litem in domestic matters, civil litigation, business formation, non-profit governance and orders of protection.

"Michelle Dixon is an experienced trial attorney who is dedicated to serving the most vulnerable citizens in Jackson County. She has tirelessly represented the interests of juveniles at Family Court," said Presiding Judge Jalilah Otto. "We are excited that she will be joining the Jackson County Circuit Court as our newest commissioner."

Dixon currently serves on a number of civil and charitable organizations including the board of directors of the Children's Emergency Fund as secretary. She is a member of the National Association of Counsel for Children, and has represented the Office of the Guardian ad Litem on several Family Court committees.

She earned a B.S. degree in Business Management from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kansas School of Law.

With the addition of the new commissioner position authorized by the Missouri General Assembly, there will now be four commissioners and a Family Court administrative judge hearing juvenile court matters in Jackson County.