



*16th Judicial Circuit Court
Jackson County, Missouri*

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NEWS RELEASE

**Jackson County Circuit Court Administrator Mary A. Marquez
Announces Retirement**

Court Administrator Mary A. Marquez has announced she will retire in February 2023 after a 35-year career with the 16th Judicial Circuit Court in Jackson County.

"I have enjoyed my time at the Court and have been humbled by the opportunity to lead such a wonderful group of people," Marquez said. "I hope that I have made some impact on the lives of others. I look forward to the next part of my life. I will always remain a devoted friend of the Court and its employees and judges."

Marquez, 63, spent the majority of her career at the Jackson County Family Court as an attorney where she worked in the prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases, and juvenile delinquency. She joined the Court as a Staff Attorney in the Legal Services Unit in 1987, and became its Director in 1993. In 2009, she was appointed Juvenile Officer which is a position that is similar to County Prosecutor in the adult criminal justice system.

As an attorney at the Family Court, she served on a number of state and regional task forces to improve the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. She co-facilitated the original protocol for the forensic interviewing of children at The Child Protection Center. She also provided training to law enforcement agencies in juvenile law and procedures.

Marquez was promoted Deputy Court Administrator of the Family Court/ Director of Family Court Services in December 2012, and oversaw all the operations of the Family Court including Residential and Field Services.

In January 2017, she began serving as Court Administrator of the Circuit and Family Court after appointment to the position by the Court en Banc. During this time, she provided leadership during several unexpected events. In January 2019, there was a major flood at the downtown courthouse. Staff were relocated to other locations and temporary sites were set up so hearings could be held. In the aftermath of the flood, she was very involved in the County's courthouse renovations. In 2020, the pandemic once again changed the way the Court operated, but the courthouse remained open, services continued and hearings were held.

"Mary has provided exceptional service and leadership to our Court over many years and, especially as Court Administrator, during unprecedented events," said Presiding Judge J. Dale Youngs. "Her singular concern has always been doing what is best for our Court, its employees, and the citizens we serve. We will miss her, and wish her all the best during her well-deserved retirement."

Marquez was honored in April 2022 by Hope House at its Everyday Hero Luncheon with the "Impact in Change Award." She is a graduate of the Court Management Program at the National Center for State Courts, and earned a J.D. degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School in 1986.

The judges have formed a search committee to be chaired by Judge Jalilah Otto to seek qualified candidates for the position.

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