



16th Judicial Circuit
Jackson County, Missouri

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News Release

Judge David M. Byrn announces retirement

Judge David M. Byrn has announced that he will retire from the Jackson County Circuit Court effective July 29, 2021, after serving almost 13 years in office. Byrn, 64, was appointed as circuit judge of Division 3 in September 2008 by Governor Matt Blunt.

He said that it has been an honor to serve alongside his colleagues in Jackson County and throughout the state. And, as he retires, he talked about the role of courts in a democracy.

“It seems in today’s society that courts are easy to point fingers at,” said Byrn. “If you look at the way our democracy is set up, with courts as the third branch of government, we are in my view, the foundation of society. Courts are sometimes slower to react to societal changes, which I think is good, because courts provide a stable and consistent base for our democracy, as opposed to perhaps moving from one side to another on a continuing basis. Courts are that steadying factor, that foundation.”

He continued, “It strikes me with all the divisiveness we see in today’s society, it is more important than ever to have good judges, fair judges, judges of character who can impartially administer justice, follow the law and consistently maintain the integrity of the system. We are so fortunate in our circuit to have judges who fit that criteria, together with the support of all of our outstanding employees.”

Most recently, Byrn served a two-year term from 2019 – 2020 as the Court’s presiding judge and led the Court through some difficult times.

Current Presiding Judge J. Dale Youngs said, “As presiding judge, he guided our Court through numerous challenges, not the least of which were two devastating floods in 2019 and the ensuing repairs, and coordination of the Court’s response to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. I suppose the locusts will arrive sometime during my term! All of us knew that Judge Byrn was a steady hand on the tiller and we will miss him.”

Byrn came to the bench after 27 years as an attorney with the law firm of Jeter Rains & Byrn. He leaves to take a position with CGL Companies which is a criminal justice consulting company. He will assist local, state and federal entities with the planning of courthouses and detention centers, and with issues related to court operations, court management and continuity of operations.

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