



16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Jackson County, Missouri

For Release:  
November 28, 2017

Contact: Valerie Hartman  
Public Information Officer  
816-881-3552

## News Release

The Kansas City, Missouri Municipal Judicial Nominating Commission of the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit selected three nominees today for the judicial opening created by the retirement on October 1<sup>st</sup> of Kansas City Municipal Judge Elena M. Franco of Division 208. Eight people submitted applications and were interviewed in a meeting open to the public. The Commission selected the following panel:

Mr. Michael C. Heffernon, Assistant City Prosecutor;  
Mr. Eddie Lorenzo, Legal Aid of Western Missouri; and  
Hon. Martina Peterson, Jackson County Family Court Commissioner.

The Commission will submit the panel to the Kansas City, Missouri City Council which will interview the nominees and appoint a new judge.

Judicial openings on the Kansas City Municipal Court are filled in accordance with the State of Missouri's Nonpartisan Court Plan. The City Council has 60 days to appoint one of the nominees. After serving one year in office, the judge will come before the voters in a retention election.

The Kansas City Municipal Judicial Nominating Commission is chaired by Presiding Judge John M. Torrence of the 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, and is comprised of attorneys John H. Hager and Christopher Korth, and lay members Rosa M. James and Vincent Ortega.

###