



16th Judicial Circuit of Missouri

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News Release

Penrose named as Juvenile Officer for 16th Circuit

Monica Penrose has been named as the Juvenile Officer for the 16th Judicial Circuit of Missouri.

Penrose has been serving in the role on an acting basis since September.

“Ms. Penrose brings a wealth of experience to the role of the Juvenile Officer, and we are privileged to have a person of her caliber taking on the challenges of this critical position.,” Court Administrator Beverly A. Newman said. “She has a lengthy history as a dedicated, competent, and professional public servant. I am confident Ms. Penrose will embrace the careful balance of serving youth and families while ensuring community protection in her new role as the Juvenile Officer.”

Penrose has been with the Family Court for more than seven years. She previously served as a staff attorney, then as managing attorney for the Office of the Juvenile Officer.

Throughout her career, Penrose has had a service mindset, with the best interests of families and children as her clear priority.

“Our focus is one child at a time, one family at a time — how can we help them reach their full potential?” she said.

Prior to joining Family Court, Penrose was a solo practitioner in Cass and Johnson counties, representing parents and children in Juvenile Court, and frequently serving as a guardian ad litem and mediator. Before that, she spent 13 years as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Cass County, where she prosecuted homicide cases, and cases where children were victims of sexual and physical abuse. She began her career in 2000 in private practice in Warrensburg, serving as an assistant city prosecutor and in domestic relations law.

Penrose earned her law degree from the University of Missouri School of Law, where she was a member of the Missouri Law Review. She earned her undergraduate degree in history from what is now Missouri State University in Springfield in 1996. She is trained in mediation for both civil and domestic relations and as a guardian ad litem, and she is the co-author of a chapter on termination of parental rights law in The Missouri Bar’s deskbook on juvenile law.

The Office of the Juvenile Officer is charged with responsibilities under Missouri law to intervene in the lives of families and children, when necessary, to help the community protect children and promote community safety and well-being. The office serves in a quasi-prosecutorial role in both child dependency and delinquency matters pursuant to the state's Juvenile Code.

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