

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Judge Fitzpatrick for Court of Appeals Campaign

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Judge Michael Fitzpatrick to Run for Wisconsin Court of Appeals
Circuit Court Judge from Rock County Files Campaign Registration for Open Seat on Court of Appeals

Judge Michael R. Fitzpatrick, currently a Judge on the Rock County Circuit Court, has officially filed his campaign registration as a candidate for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District 4. Judge Fitzpatrick will seek the seat being vacated by the retirement from the Court of Judge Paul Higginbotham.

The non-partisan election will be held in April 2017 for a six year term. The Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District Four covers 24 counties including Adams, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dodge, Dane, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Lafayette, La Crosse, Marquette, Monroe, Portage, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Vernon, Waushara, Waupaca, and Wood.

“Judges, attorneys, and community leaders have urged me to run,” Judge Fitzpatrick said. “The Wisconsin Court of Appeals is a busy court that decides thousands of cases a year in all areas of the law. I am honored that so many people across the 24 counties District Four encompasses have confidence that I have the experience, the legal skill, and the temperament to serve the people of Wisconsin in this tough and important job.”

Judge Fitzpatrick has more than 30 years of legal and judicial experience. Elected twice as a Judge in Rock County, he presides over civil and criminal cases. He has also served on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals by special assignment and has been elected by Wisconsin’s Judges to the Wisconsin Judicial Council, the Wisconsin Civil Jury Instruction Committee, and the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Trial Judges Association.

Prior to taking the Bench, Judge Fitzpatrick was an attorney at Brennan, Steil & Basting, S.C. in Janesville where he chaired the Litigation Practice Group and handled intellectual property disputes and product liability cases in federal and state courts throughout Wisconsin and the United States. While in private practice, he earned the top “AV” rating for legal acumen and ethics from the legal rating service Martindale-Hubbell and was thrice named one of Wisconsin’s “Super Lawyers” in Business Litigation by *Milwaukee Magazine*.

Active in both the broader community and the legal profession, Judge Fitzpatrick has served as a member of the City of Janesville Police and Fire Commission (2004-2008) and on the board of Directors of the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund (2001-2008), the University of Wisconsin-Rock County Foundation (2001-2009), and the Janesville Community Day Care Center (1990-1998).

Judge Fitzpatrick earned his law degree from Drake University (1984). Immediately after graduation he served for a year as the law clerk to the Honorable R. James Groh, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin. Judge Fitzpatrick and his wife Sharon reside in Janesville.

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