Announcement of
JUDICIAL VACANCY
January 20th, 2016

Applications are now being accepted for the position of justice court judge in the Kane County Justice Court. This position results from the retirement of Judge F. Kirk Heaton effective June 30th, 2016.

Completed application forms must be received by the Administrative Office of the Courts no later than 5:00 p.m., on Monday, February 8th, 2016.

Application Forms and Instructions

The required application form and instructions are available on the Utah State Courts' website at http://www.utcourts.gov/resources/forms. Please note that the application form was revised in January 2010.

You may also request a copy of the application form and instructions in WordPerfect or MS Word format by sending your email address to Melisse Stiglich.

Attention: Melisse Stiglich
Administrative Office of the Courts
450 S State
PO Box 140241
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Phone: (801)-578-3844
E-Mail: melisses@utcourts.gov

Work of the Court

Justice courts are established by counties and municipalities and have the authority to hear class B and C misdemeanors, small claims, and infractions committed within their territorial jurisdiction.

Selection Process

Utah law requires the Judicial Nominating Commission to submit three to five nominees to the Kane County Commission within 45 days of its first meeting. The local government executive has 30 days in which to make a selection. The selection must be certified by the Utah Judicial Council. To obtain the procedures of the Judicial Nominating Commission and the names of Commission members call (801)-578-3844 or email melisses@utcourts.gov.

At its first meeting the Nominating Commission reviews written public comments. This meeting is open to the public. To comment upon issues of local concern, general qualities of justice court judges, or other constructive recommendations, submit a written statement no later than February 8th, 2016 to the Administrative Office of the Courts, Attention: Melisse Stiglich Re: Kane County Nominating Commission

Terms of Employment

A. Requirements/Benefits

Minimum Requirements: Under Section 78A-7-201 of the Utah Code, Justice Court judges must be at least 25 years old.

Residency: All judges must be United States citizens. Justice Court judges must be Utah residents for at least three years immediately preceding selection. Justice Court judges must also be a resident of the county in which the court is located or an adjacent county for at least six months immediately preceding appointment and be a qualified voter of the county in which the judge resides.

Practice of Law: Justice Court judges do not need to hold a law degree, but must have a high school diploma or GED.

Annual Salary: This position offers a salary range of $25,984.50 to $46,772.10. Benefits will be provided; information may be obtained from the local hiring authority by calling Rhonda Gant at (435)644-4929 or by email at rgant@kane.utah.gov.

B. Judicial Retention

Each judge is subject to an unopposed, nonpartisan retention election at the first general election held more than three years after the appointment. To be retained, the judge must receive a majority of affirmative votes cast.

Following the first retention election, justice court judges appear on the retention ballot every six years.

C. Performance Evaluation

All sitting judges undergo a performance review after the first year in office and biennially thereafter. Judges not up for retention election can use the performance review results as a guide for self-improvement. Judges up for retention election are subject to Certification Review by the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. Prior to the election, the Commission publishes in the voter information pamphlet whether the judge met or failed to meet the following evaluation criteria:

- Compliance with case delay reduction standards
- No public sanctions by the Judicial Conduct Commission during the term of office and not more than one private sanction during the final two years of the term of office
- Completion of 30 hours of approved judicial education each year
- Self Certification that the judge is physically and mentally able to serve, and complies with the Code of Judicial Conduct and Administration
- A satisfactory score on the certification portion of the Commission's Survey of the Bar
- For District and Justice Court Judges a satisfactory score on the certification portion of the Commission's Survey of jurors

Those wishing to recommend possible candidates for judicial office or those wishing to be considered for such office should promptly contact Melisse Stiglich at the Administrative Office of the Courts 450 S State PO Box 140241 Salt Lake City, UT 84114 (801)-578-3844, melisses@utcourts.gov. Application packets will be forwarded to prospective candidates.