



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
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KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106

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Judge Jay A. Daugherty
To Retire on December 31, 2010

Judge Jay A. Daugherty today announced his plans to retire, effective December 31, 2010, as Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit, Jackson County, Missouri. Judge Daugherty will return to the practice of law as a member of the law firm, Shaffer, Lombardo Shurin, beginning a full-time mediation and arbitration practice in January, 2011.

Judge Daugherty has served as a Judge for 27 years, the last 20 of which have been as a Circuit Judge. From 2003-2004, he served as the Presiding Judge. "I am proud to have been a member of one of the best trial courts in the country. The Court has always been the leader in the state of Missouri in court automation, case management and in adopting cutting edge techniques. On my departure, I am certainly grateful to have served with so many fine judges and feel blessed that the court's staff consists of many talented and loyal individuals. I thank all of them for making the last 20 years of my life so rewarding."

Judge Jay A. Daugherty is one of the few judges nationwide to have earned a Master's Degree in the Judiciary from the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada. He is also a graduate of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. He received his law degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Prior to his appointment to the bench in 1991 by Governor John Ashcroft, he served as an Administrative Law Judge for seven years and as an Assistant Attorney General of Missouri for three years.

As Judge Daugherty thought back on his career, he stated, "As a judge, I have experienced some interesting times. I began when personal computers were a new fad. Most courts still relied on typewriters and carbon paper to conduct the court's business. We actually used law books to do legal research. Certainly the use of computers to present a case to the jury via PowerPoint or the use of the internet to conduct research in the courtroom in the midst of a jury trial was not even a dream when I started on the bench."

Judge Peggy Stevens McGraw has said of her colleague, “Judge Daugherty was instrumental in getting our civil case management system in place, bringing new innovations to our Court. As Presiding Judge, Jay was a consensus builder. On a personal note, it’s going to be a real loss to me, as I’ve always considered him as someone I could go to for reasonable, well-thought-out advice, and he has always been there to help me when needed.”

In his 20 years on the circuit bench, Judge Daugherty has tried hundreds of jury trials, including complex commercial, construction and business litigation; medical malpractice; a broad spectrum of personal injury cases; employment discrimination; and product liability, to name only a few. Among some of his higher profile cases were three industrial/environmental hog farm cases, most of the litigation involving allegations of child sexual abuse against the Archdiocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph, as well as numerous first-degree murder cases, death penalty cases, and cold-case DNA rape cases.

Judge Daugherty has served as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Commission on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) since it was created in March, 2009. The Commission is charged with reviewing the national trend toward the adoption of the Uniform Mediation Act; considering ethical issues including confidentiality, privilege, and the giving of legal advice by neutrals; assessing the increased use and acceptance of ADR in Missouri; and assessing the impact of arbitration clauses in many areas of business.

In November, 2009, Judge Daugherty became Chairman of the National Board of Trustees for the ALS Association. Judge Daugherty was 18 when his father died of ALS, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. For the past 25 years, Judge Daugherty has been active in the ALS Association’s Keith Worthington Chapter, which includes Kansas, Nebraska and Western Missouri.

Judge Ann Mesle praised the Judge for his work ethic, saying, “Judge Daugherty worked smart. He really understood his job as a judge. He was a planner, and engaged the Court in a Strategic Planning process that benefits the Court to this day.”

“Judge Daugherty also did a better job than anyone else in encouraging community relations between the bench and the bar; within the bench; with the media; and with our other constituent groups. As a result, he always was among the top rated judges in the evaluations done by the Missouri Bar and by the voting public in the retention elections.” As Judge Daugherty leaves, perhaps Judge Mesle summed it up best by saying, “He was just a damn fine guy.”

Judge Daugherty has written many articles and is widely published in national and local publications. He has been quoted as an expert on ADR, ALS, and matters of the court by journalists. His article on the Missouri Non-Partisan Court Plan appeared in the Spring, 1997 issue of the Missouri Law Review and remains a scholarly reference on the Missouri Plan. In addition, Judge Daugherty wrote an analysis of “The Jury System: It Still Works” that dealt with the Rodney King case.

As for his future, Judge Daugherty will be returning to private practice, beginning a full-time mediation and arbitration practice as a member of the law firm of Shaffer, Lombardo Shurin.

When asked about this new aspect of his career, Judge Daugherty said, “ I am incredibly excited to bring my years of experience, my energy and my enthusiasm to the practice of mediation and arbitration and to do it with the outstanding group of dedicated and talented attorneys at Shaffer, Lombardo Shurin.”

As he leaves, Judge Daugherty indicated, “I want to express my gratitude to the people of Missouri, the citizens of our community and all the lawyers I have worked with, for allowing me to serve you as a judge for most of my adult life. It has been my honor and my privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility of upholding the law of the State of Missouri.”

Judge Jay A. Daugherty, a resident of Jackson County, was appointed to the Circuit bench in 1991 by Governor John Ashcroft and retained by the voters in 1992, 1998, 2004, and 2010.