

11.16.10 : Governor appoints members to Court of Tax Appeals

Governor Mark Parkinson has appointed Trevor Wohlford and Senator Janis Lee to the Kansas State Court of Tax Appeals. Wohlford, Lawrence, has been appointed to serve as a judge on the Court and Senator Lee, Kensington, will replace Wohlford as the Court's chief hearing officer. Both appointments must be approved by the Senate when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

"The Court of Tax Appeals is an important legal body for Kansas citizens, serving as an advocate for taxpayers across the state," said Parkinson. "Trevor and Janis will bring their combination of legal expertise and experience in state government to the bench to help ensure that our tax code is applied fairly and equitably."

Wohlford was appointed by former Governor Kathleen Sebelius to serve as chief hearing officer for the Court after having worked four years as the tribunal's chief legal counsel and executive director. Prior to serving on the Court, Wohlford worked for five years in private practice at Hinkle Elkouri Law Firm L.L.C. and Foulston Siefkin L.L.P. where he handled real estate, commercial and employment law. Wohlford has served on a number of boards and commissions, including the Court of Tax Appeals Bench and Bar Committee, the Kansas Bar Association and the Douglas County Bar Association. He earned his master's degree from the University of Kansas William Allen White School of Journalism and his juris doctorate from the University of Denver College of Law.

Senator Lee has served in the Kansas Senate for over 20 years, representing Kansas' 36th Senatorial District. In addition to serving as the assistant minority leader of the Senate, Senator Lee has served on several legislative committees, including the committees on Ways and Means, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Utilities. She is also a former member of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee and the former chair of the Use Value Advisory Committee, which advises the Kansas Department of Revenue's Property Valuation Department. In 2002, Senator Lee was awarded the Kansas Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award and the Kansas Agribusiness Association Award for Legislative Achievement. She graduated cum laude from Kansas State University. Upon Senate confirmation, Senator Lee will resign from her seat in the Kansas Legislature to serve on the Court full-time.

The Kansas State Court of Tax Appeals ensures that all property in the state is assessed for tax purposes in an equal and uniform manner in accordance with the Kansas Constitution and state statutes. The Court is composed of three tax court judges and a chief hearing officer who resolve disputes between taxpayers and taxing authorities. Additionally, the Court is charged with reviewing tax exemption decisions made by local governments, grievances resulting from technical errors, and correcting tax inequities.

Governor Parkinson has also made a number of other appointments and reappointments that are subject to authorization by the Senate when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

Kansas Health Policy Authority

The governor appointed David Sanford as a governor's appointee to the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA). Sanford, Wichita, is currently the chief executive officer of GraceMed Health Clinic, Inc. where he is responsible for all operations and activities of the health care ministry. Prior, Sanford was a component lab manager for the American Red Cross and the vice president of marketing and development at the Kansas Children's Service League. Additionally, he has served in many capacities for the Coloplast Corporation, including as director of business services, and has worked for the Deseret Medical Company and United Way of America. Sanford received his bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Kansas.

KHPA develops and maintains a coordinated health policy agenda that combines the effective purchasing and administration of health care with promotion-oriented public health strategies. The powers, duties, and functions of

KHPA are intended to be exercised to improve the health of the people of Kansas by increasing the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of health services and public health programs.

Kansas Lottery Commission

Governor Parkinson has appointed Frank Diehl as a public member to the Kansas Lottery Commission. Diehl, Lawrence, was most recently the deputy disciplinary administrator for the Office of Disciplinary Administrator in Topeka, handling complaints against Kansas attorneys. Previously, he was an assistant district attorney for the Douglas County District Attorney's Office and assistant attorney general in the Kansas Attorney General's Office. Diehl also has many years practicing general, criminal and child care law throughout Kansas. He was also a Sergeant in the United States Air Force. Diehl earned his bachelor's degree in history from Kansas State University and his juris doctorate from Washburn University School of Law.

The Kansas Lottery Commission polices the lottery in the state of Kansas. The commission consults with and advises the executive director relating to the operation of the state lottery, as well as assisting the director in the establishment of policies.

State Board of Indigents' Defense Services

The governor appointed James Colgan and reappointed John Poertner and John Weber to the State Board of Indigents' Defense Services.

For the past ten years, Colgan has been an active attorney and partner at Colgan Law Firm, L.L.C., which focuses on family law, criminal law, personal injury, probate and estate and civil litigation. He has been a member of the Board of Indigent Defense Services in Wyandotte County since 1997 and in Leavenworth County since 2008. He received his master's of education in guidance and counseling psychology from Loyola University and his juris doctorate from Washburn University School of Law. Colgan was appointed as an attorney representing a county with a population exceeding 100,000 people (Johnson County).

Poertner, Lawrence, was reappointed as a Third Congressional District public member and Weber, Wichita, was reappointed as a Fourth Congressional District public member.

The State Board of Indigents' Defense Services aims to provide, supervise and coordinate, in the most efficient and economical manner possible, the constitutionally and statutorily required counsel and related service for each indigent person accused of a felony and for such other indigent persons as prescribed by law.

Kansas Human Rights Commission

Governor Parkinson reappointed Jerome Williams, Wichita, as an industry representative member of the Kansas Human Rights Commission. The commission works to eliminate and prevent discrimination and assure equal opportunities in the state in all employment relations and in all places of public accommodations and in housing.

Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation

The governor has reappointed Kyle Elliott, Shawnee, as a member representing information services on the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC). KTEC is a private/public partnership established by the state of Kansas to promote technology based economic development. Through support of strategic research and development, hands-on business assistance and direct equity investments in early-stage companies, KTEC serves as an invaluable partner to companies that bring economic growth to Kansas.