



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Jan. 4, 2018**

### **31st Judicial Circuit elects Judge Michael Cordonnier to Presiding Judge seat**

SPRINGFIELD, MO — Greene County's 31st Judicial Circuit Court *en banc* has elected Judge Michael Cordonnier as its next Presiding Judge. His appointment began on Jan. 1, 2018.

"I am gratified for the opportunity to serve my colleagues on the Circuit Court and to continue the tradition of service to the citizens of Greene County," Cordonnier said. "We look forward to meeting the challenges that lie ahead."

The County's five circuit judges, six associate circuit judges and six commissioners make up the Court *en banc*. The position of Presiding Judge is elected by a majority vote of those judges. All circuit judges are eligible for election. The term is for two years and is subject to reelection. The election takes place in September, with the office to begin the following Jan. 1.

The Presiding Judge holds the general administrative authority of the court, in which duties include presiding over Court *en banc* meetings; appointing and supervising any needed committees of judges or commissioners; supervising the preparation of the budget; coordinating all duties and judicial assignments; and managing media and government contacts.

Cordonnier was appointed to the 31st Judicial Circuit Court in 2008 by then Governor Matt Blunt. Thereafter, he was elected in 2008 and was retained by the voters in 2012. He received a bachelor's in Business Administration at the University of Missouri - Columbia, in 1979, and his juris doctor degree at the University of Tulsa's College of Law in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1982. He practiced law in Springfield, state and federal trial and appellate courts from 1982 to 2008.

Cordonnier succeeds Judge Thomas Mountjoy, who served as Presiding Judge from 2010 to 2018.

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