

## PRESS RELEASE

### JOHN GERRARD SWORN IN AS DISTRICT JUDGE FOR DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA FEBRUARY 8, 2012

On February 6, 2012, former Nebraska Supreme Court Justice John M. Gerrard was sworn in as a federal district judge for the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska. Judge Gerrard was nominated by President Barack Obama on May 4, 2011. He was confirmed by the Senate on January 23, 2012, and received his commission on February 6, 2012. Judge Gerrard fills the vacancy created when Judge Richard G. Kopf took senior status on December 1, 2011.

Both Nebraska senators hold Judge Gerrard in high regard. Senator Ben Nelson stated, "Justice Gerrard has built an exceptional record in both private practice and on the Nebraska Supreme Court. He will do an exemplary job as a U.S. district judge." In a similar vein, Senator Mike Johanns stated, "I'm pleased my Senate colleagues recognized that Justice Gerrard is a highly disciplined judge who has distinguished himself throughout more than a decade of service on our state's high court. I look forward to him serving our nation on the federal bench."

Judge Gerrard was appointed to the Nebraska Supreme Court in 1995 by then-Governor Ben Nelson. As a justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, Judge Gerrard authored more than 450 opinions, and consistently received top ratings from the Nebraska State Bar Association in its biennial judicial evaluations. In 2006, Judge Gerrard was recognized for his efforts in leading initiatives promoting racial and ethnic fairness under the law. In 2008, the Nebraska State Bar Foundation awarded Judge Gerrard the Legal Pioneer Award for his work in using technology and other means to make courts more accessible to citizens from all cultures.

Prior to serving on the Nebraska Supreme Court, Judge Gerrard was in private practice for 14 years in Norfolk, Nebraska, as senior partner with Gerrard, Stratton, & Ptak, P.C. While in private practice, he also served as a city attorney and as counsel to several educational institutions in northeast Nebraska.

Judge Gerrard is a native of Schuyler, Nebraska. He received a Bachelor's degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1975, a Master's of Public Administration in 1977 from the University of Arizona, and his law degree in 1981 from The University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law.

"Judge Gerrard brings to the federal district court bench a wealth of knowledge and experience, a stellar reputation as a jurist, and a demonstrated commitment to fairness and equal access to the courts," said U.S. District Court Chief Judge, Laurie Smith Camp. "The judges of this district are very grateful to Senators Nelson and Johanns for the thoughtful selection process that led to Judge Gerrard's nomination, and for their cooperative effort that ensured his confirmation," she said. "Nebraska's federal district court is now stronger and better prepared to serve the people who come to this court seeking justice."

The judges and staff of the United States District Court welcome Judge Gerrard to the court family and look forward to working with him.

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