

STATE OF FLORIDA
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns & Volusia Counties
Volusia County Courthouse
101 N. Alabama Ave.
DeLand, Florida 32724

COURT COMMUNICATIONS
Court Administration

Phone: (386) 943-7074
Fax: (386) 626-6567

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2015

Contact:
Ludmilla Lelis
llelis@circuit7.org
mobile: (386) 748-0837

Circuit Judge Howard O. McGillin, Jr. to be formally sworn in as judge

Circuit Judge Howard O. McGillin, who was appointed to fill a judicial vacancy in the 7th Judicial Circuit, will have his investiture on Friday, March 27, 2015.

The ceremony, during which he will receive his judicial robe and be formally sworn in, will take place 4 p.m. on March 27 at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada Street, St. Augustine.

This is a judicial proceeding and the circuit judges will be sitting *en banc*, meaning with the full court participating.

Last year, he was appointed by Gov. Rick Scott to fill a vacancy created when Judge Carlos Mendoza was appointed to the federal bench.

Judge McGillin presides over a unified family court division at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center in St. Augustine.

He came to the court with a long career in public service - 24 years in the U.S. Army, including 15 years as a lawyer in the Judge Advocate General Corps, or JAG. He retired as a Colonel. While on active duty, his service included visits to the eastern European republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the republics of the former Soviet Union.

"While serving in the military, I saw firsthand what happens when the rule of law isn't followed," said Judge McGillin. "Those experiences gave me a deep understanding of the importance of the rule of law and the special value of our Constitutional rights. I continue to hold true to those beliefs in my new position as judge."

Judge McGillin continued, "I am so honored and humbled to be appointed as judge and look forward to serving the people of the 7th Judicial Circuit."

He earned an undergraduate degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., a juris doctor from the University of Florida College of Law, and a Masters of Law in Military Law from the Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Va. Following a 24-year career in the U.S. Army, he went into private practice.

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