

Governor lists five applicants for county Judge Wambach's bench

Posted: Thursday, November 10, 2016 9:57 am

JEFFERSON — Applicants for Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge David Wambach's bench have been identified.

Wambach recently announced his intention to step down from the bench effective March 31, 2017.

Wambach submitted a retirement letter in late September to state and county officials announcing his intention to retire after 32 years of public service as both a prosecutor and judge.

An appointee will serve through April 2018, at which time an election for the seat will be held. The deadline for applications for this position already has passed.

Applicants for the position, according to Gov. Scott Walker's office, include Department of Workforce Development administrative law Judge Vincent Guerrero of Lake Mills, Jefferson County Court Commissioner Jennifer Weber, Watertown City Attorney William Gruber, Waukesha County Judicial Court Commissioner Robert F. Dehring Jr. of Waukesha and state Department of Justice Deputy Solicitor General Daniel Lenington of Sun Prairie.

No timeline has been set for the selection. Wambach announced his intention to retire in time that an appointment years of public service as both a prosecutor and judge. Guerrero and Weber also were finalists for Erwin's seat when Wambach was selected.

Following preliminary interviews, the field will be narrowed to three before a final selection is made.

All but one of the applicants have links to the Jefferson County legal system.

Guerrero has practiced law since 1997 after graduating from University of Wisconsin Madison Law School. He previously focused his practice at Anderson Guerrero S.C. in Lake Mills on civil



Judge David Wambach

litigation, liability defense, worker's compensation defense, estate planning and probate. He worked there for approximately nine years.

Meanwhile, Gruber has been Watertown city attorney for the past four years in Jefferson County. Prior to that, he served as Dodge County assistant corporation counsel for two years. He also spent time in the Waukesha County District Attorney's Office as an intern in 2001 and as a law clerk to Judge Robert G. Mawdsley for two years in Waukesha County.

A Marquette University Law School graduate, Gruber has been studying or practicing law since 2001.

Dehring, a former Jefferson County court commissioner from 2010-12, was appointed as Waukesha County Circuit Court commissioner in 2013. Also a Marquette University Law School graduate, he earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He was in private practice from 2005-09. During that time, he also was hired as a contract attorney for the Racine County Child Support Department.

From 2009-12, he served as Jefferson County assistant corporation counsel before being named as court commissioner.

Succeeding Dehring as court commissioner Jefferson County was Weber.

She obtained a bachelor of arts degrees in psychology and social work, along with a certificate in criminal justice, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996. She received her law degree from Marquette University, graduating in the top 20 percent of her class in 1999.

She and Vicki Zick opened Zick and Weber Law office in June 1999 in Johnson Creek. As an attorney, she has been an active member of the American Bar Association and Jefferson County Bar Association since 1999, including serving as treasurer, secretary, vice president and president on a rotating basis.

Lennington is the lone applicant with no direct ties to Jefferson County.

He received his law degree from Valparaiso University School of Law in 2001, and his undergraduate degree from Hillsdale College in 1998. He started his law career in Michigan representing businesses in environmental and employment matters. In 2012, he joined the state Department of Justice as an assistant attorney general specializing in civil rights and appellate litigation.

From 2013-15, he was responsible for overseeing major litigation and providing policy direction and legal advice to department operations as an assistant deputy attorney general.

Prior to his service in Wisconsin, he was a federal prosecutor in Oklahoma City, as well as an assistant attorney general in Oklahoma.

Lennington was awarded the FBI Director's Award and the Award for Excellence from the United States Council of Inspectors General.