



DAVID C. LEWIS
CLERK

CLERK
SUPREME COURT, COURT OF APPEALS, AND TAX COURT

State House, Rm. 217
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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Contact: David Schanker
Telephone: (317) 233-1976
dschanke@courts.state.in.us

***Clerk of Courts David C. Lewis applauds
Governor Kernan and Indiana General Assembly
for Changing Clerk to Appointed Position***

INDIANAPOLIS – David C. Lewis, the Clerk of the Indiana Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Tax Court, today thanked both the Indiana General Assembly for passing Senate Enrolled Act 72 and Governor Joe Kernan for signing this important legislation, which was among 55 bills signed by the Governor Tuesday. The bill contains several provisions affecting election matters, including the method by which the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Tax Court is chosen. As of the effective date of the bill, the Clerk will no longer be elected by Indiana's voters, but will be chosen by the Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court.

“In addition to significant reforms in county voting list maintenance and the approval process for new voting systems, Senate Enrolled Act 72 puts the selection of the Clerk of Courts into the hands of the Indiana Supreme Court,” Lewis said. “This change will provide greater accountability and greater efficiency in the services the Clerk's Office provides to the judiciary, the legal community, and the public.”

According to the bill, which passed unanimously in the House and Senate, Lewis will complete his current term of office. Lewis was appointed by Governor Kernan in November, 2003 to fill a vacancy following the resignation of Brian Bishop. The current term ends on January 1, 2007. At that time, or upon Lewis's resignation, the next Clerk of Courts will be named by the Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court.

Lewis added that “changing this position from elected to appointed is an example of good government. While the work of the Clerk's Office is vital to the functioning of the appellate courts, the Clerk is an administrative position with no policymaking authority. It is appropriate for the Supreme Court to have the power to employ the Clerk of its choosing, without reference to politics and without the uncertainty presented by the election of a Clerk every four years.”

With the passage of SEA 72, Indiana has joined the 48 other states with an appointed Clerk of Courts.

“I would again like to thank Governor Kernan for appointing me to serve as Clerk of Courts and for his continued leadership and support,” Lewis said. “I would also like to thank Representative Ed Mahern for acting to include this important initiative in SEA 72, and Senator David Ford for proposing a similar measure in the Senate.”

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