

Keep Judge Titus on Circuit Court bench

I am writing regarding the upcoming election, and the contested race for Circuit Court judge, where Maria Oesterreicher is running against the sitting judge, Judge Richard Titus.

Ms. Oesterreicher has previously attempted to question the manner in which the local Bar Association endorsed Judge Titus. That vote was entirely consistent with the Bar Association's bylaws. She has also tried to make this contest into a gender issue, pointing out that there are no women on the Circuit Court bench in Carroll County. This is true, but overlooks several points. First, one of our two District Court judges is female, which has been the case since 1991. Second, our local Judicial Nominating Commission, made up of lawyers and laypersons, and appointed by Gov. Hogan, reviews all applications for judicial vacancies, and conducts a thorough vetting process, culminating with interviews of the applicants. It then sends a list of at least three names to the governor, who conducts his own review before making an appointment. Ms. Oesterreicher has applied for the last four judicial vacancies in Carroll County. While she has not been included on the short list sent to the governor for any of those vacancies, each list included one or more females on it. Therefore, to imply that female attorneys are not getting judicial opportunities is simply not the case.

Please support Judge Richard Titus, the candidate found to be worthy by the Judicial Nominating Commission and appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan. Don't be fooled by the signs and misleading mailers and letters. Vote to keep the judge who has lived in Carroll County for over 20 years, maintained his practice here for that length of time as well, and who has served with distinction since his appointment.

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