

ACC St. Louis Member, Krista S. Peyton's Judicial Appointment

The Association of Corporate Counsel St. Louis Chapter (ACC STL) congratulates member, Krista S. Peyton, on her appointment as associate circuit judge for the 21st Judicial Circuit in St. Louis County by Governor Michael L. Parson. Judge Peyton was sworn in to office by Judge Mary Ott on January 7, 2022, and, after attending the Supreme Court of Missouri's New Judge School, began hearing a full civil docket on February 7 in Division 41. On any given day Judge Peyton can touch over 200 cases ranging from breach of contract to landlord tenant matters and trials de novo that are appealed from small claims court. Judge Peyton also is a co-signor for traffic commissioners and must review and approve their orders for driver's license revocations.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Peyton served as the general counsel and chief contracting officer for the St. Louis Housing Authority. When asked about the contrast between her role in-house and the judiciary, Judge Peyton noted that, "When you are in-house you are trying to guide the client to make the best choices within a legal framework and can have an isolated view, where as a judge I must have a broader global perspective." And in reflecting on what she's found rewarding about both positions Judge Peyton said that during her tenure at the Housing Authority she "enjoyed working with a collective group of individuals, because when you are the general counsel, you get to work with everybody because any legal issue that touches the entity means you are involved. As a judge I have enjoyed being in a decision-making role and have enjoyed the wide spectrum of lawyers I get to work with and see every day."

In addition to her active involvement in ACC STL while a member, Judge Peyton participates in bar association sponsored community service such as serving lunch at St. Patrick's Center and volunteering at the St. Louis Area Food Bank and the Urban League Food Distribution. Judge Peyton is a Northwest Academy of Law High School volunteer and has invited students to observe her engage in oral argument at the Court of Appeals. She is a board member of the Beyond Housing Advocacy Council and serves on the board of Fontbonne University for the College of Education and Allied Health Professions. Judge Peyton is a member of the Junior League of St. Louis and serves on the community impact team. Judge Peyton has served on the walk committee for Autism Speaks and is a former board member of Missouri Families for Effective Autism Treatment.

Judge Peyton is a St. Louis native. She attended Rosati Kain High School and completed her undergraduate work at Southeast Missouri State University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. She completed her legal studies in 1995 at Syracuse University. During law school, Judge Peyton completed a Master's Degree in political science at the Maxwell School of Government at Syracuse University.