



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

**Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016**

## Judge Joe Bonaventure Re-Elected to Serve As Chief Judge of Las Vegas Justice Court Through 2018

Las Vegas Justice Court judges voted unanimously to extend Judge Joe Bonaventure's term as Chief Judge for another two years. Bonaventure's tenure as Chief Judge began in January of 2015 and now will continue until the end of 2018.

"I thank my fellow judges for their continued support and confidence," said Chief Judge Bonaventure. "I am especially appreciative and proud of the Las Vegas Justice Court staff, who I have worked so closely with over the last two years, for their initiative, enthusiasm, and resourcefulness; they are truly committed to public service and improving court processes."

In addition to his duties as Chief Judge, Bonaventure presides over the Las Vegas Justice Court DUI Treatment Court Program, chairs the Clark County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and serves on the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada Committee to Study Evidence-Based Pretrial Release. Chief Judge Bonaventure is also significantly involved in the Court's adoption of a Nevada pretrial assessment tool pilot program and the recent establishment of a community court on the Las Vegas Strip.

Chief Judge Bonaventure, who was elected to a third term in last June's primary election when he received nearly 60 percent of the vote, was originally elected Justice of the Peace in Department 9 of Las Vegas Justice Court in 2004. He is a life-long resident of Las Vegas, having graduated from Bishop Gorman High School, the business college at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the charter class at the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV. Thereafter, Judge Bonaventure worked as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Kathy Hardcastle in the Eighth Judicial District Court, as a deputy prosecutor with the Clark County District Attorney's office, and as an attorney in private practice with the law firm of Bonaventure & Goldstein before taking the bench in 2005.

Las Vegas Justice Court hears traffic matters, misdemeanor non-traffic cases, civil cases (amounts up to \$15,000 as of Jan. 1, 2017), small claims cases (up to \$10,000), summary eviction cases, and requests for protection orders (including stalking, workplace harassment, harm to minors, and sexual assault); the Court also determines whether felony and gross misdemeanor cases have enough evidence to proceed to District Court for trial. Judge Bonaventure's duties as Chief Judge include: presiding over administrative matters and judges' meetings; supervising court administrators, managers, referees, pro-tem judges, and hearing masters; appointing committees of judges and court staff; and acting as the Court's liaison with other governmental and civic agencies.

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 14<sup>th</sup>-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2.1 million citizens and 45 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 8<sup>th</sup>-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to about 954,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.

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