

Bio

Kenneth L. Buettner was appointed to District 5, Office 1, of the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals by Governor Frank Keating, and was sworn in February 26, 1996. This followed four years as a Captain in the Air Force JAG Corps (1976-1980), and 16 years of practice with a major Oklahoma law firm (1980-1996). His practice emphasized civil litigation in which he represented individuals and businesses in state and federal courts.

Judge Buettner is married, has two children, and two grandchildren with one on the way.

Born and raised in Oklahoma City, graduating from John Marshall High School (1968). Graduated Texas Christian University, with a B.A. in political science (1972); and Southern Methodist University, J.D. (1975). Graduate work at University of Denver and University of Central Oklahoma. Judge Buettner is a member of the Oklahoma County and Oklahoma Bar Associations, as well as the Colorado Bar and State Bar of Texas. He has served on the OBA Bench & Bar Committee, Civil Procedure Committee, and other OBA and OCBA committees. He is an Oklahoma Bar Foundation Sustaining Fellow and a Master in the Luther Bohanon American Inn of Court (President 2003-04).

Judge Buettner was a participant in Leadership Oklahoma Class XVI and Leadership Edmond Class IX. He is a trustee of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and was an Edmond Public School Foundation trustee (1995-2001) and St. John's Endowment Fund trustee (1995-2003). He is also a member of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, and has served on the Finance Board, Board of Christian Education, and Pastoral Council. .

During his judicial career, Judge Buettner has served as Chief Judge of the Court (2005-2006) , and served on the Oklahoma Judicial Conference Executive Board (2002-2006), and as its President (2005).

Questions

1) Why should the voters retain you?

My experience includes four years as an Air Force lawyer, 16 years in private civil practice, and 16 years on the Court of Civil Appeals. This experience provides the basis for timely analysis of complex legal issues. An appellate judge is presented with the trial court's decision, and must make the difficult determination whether to affirm or reverse the trial court judgment. Experience helps make that decision based upon the applicable rules of law, and efficiency helps make the decision expeditiously. It is important for judges to acknowledge their duty is to interpret and apply the laws of Oklahoma as written. A review of the decisions I have written will demonstrate my commitment to that principle.

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary for all parties involved?

The Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals is assigned cases by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Our job is to review the trial court judgment and the record of the case to determine whether an

error has occurred in the trial court process or the application of law to the case. In performing that duty, we put on the blindfold of Lady Justice to disregard the status of the parties, or the reputation of the attorneys, or the winds of public opinion, and apply the law to the case. If we do that in a timely manner, all parties should feel that the appellate review of their case has been fair. That has been my operating principle for the last 16 years.