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Longtime local district judge retiring

**(KNZA)--22nd Judicial District Judge Jim Patton is retiring next month after 27 years on the bench.**

**Patton has served 22 years as the district's administrative judge, overseeing local operations in the court system that includes Brown, Doniphan, Marshall and Nemaha Counties.**

**Patton's successor on the bench will be current District Magistrate Judge Laura Johnson-McNish. Johnson-McNish, who ran unopposed, was elected in November and will take office in January. She is to be sworn in January 13.**

**District judge's serve four-year terms. The Kansas Supreme Court, which oversees Kansas' court system, will appoint a new administrative judge to succeed Patton. The other district judge is John Weingart, of Hiawatha, who has served on the bench for twenty-two years.**

**Governor Kelly will appoint a new magistrate judge to replace Johnson-McNish.**

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