

## Support for Titus in judge race

I write in support of retaining Judge Richard Titus on the Circuit Court for Carroll County.

Judge Titus, prior to being appointed, went through an intensive vetting process, including an application providing details of education and professional experience, writing samples, significant trials litigated, community involvement and references. He was then interviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission, which consists of local attorneys and lay people. After being included on the list of at least three names submitted to the governor, he was appointed to the bench by Gov. Hogan.

Judge Titus clerked for a Circuit Court judge in Carroll County, and was then engaged in the private practice of law in Carroll County for over 20 years, before being named to the bench. He and his wife have lived in Carroll County for 28 years, and he has been deeply involved in the community. His two children attended Carroll County public schools.

Judge Titus has been endorsed by the Carroll County Bar Association, by Carroll County State's Attorney Brian DeLeonardo, by Carroll County Sheriff Jim DeWees, by the Fraternal Order of Police, by County Commissioner Richard Weaver, by the entire Carroll County legislative delegation, and by numerous attorneys with whom he has tried cases, both as an

attorney and as the presiding judge. He is also the only one running for the position with judicial experience.

His opponent has used mailers and social media to provide information about herself, and about Judge Titus, much of which is misleading, to say the least. She also refers in an ad to the funds spent by Judge Titus in the race, while neglecting to point out that she has spent significant amounts herself. This messaging has apparently been timed so that the public will not see the amount of her spending, since the next disclosure reporting date is not until just before the election.

Please join me in supporting Gov. Hogan's choice, Judge Richard Titus. He is a thoughtful, fair-minded and hard-working judge, who has served with distinction since his appointment. He has not resorted to negative campaigning, and he deserves your vote for a full term on the Circuit Court for Carroll County.

*Michael Ritchey*

*Westminster*

*The author is an attorney and a four-term member of the Judicial Nominating Commission.*