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Bobay to fill Superior Court vacancy

Niki Kelly | The Journal Gazette

INDIANAPOLIS – Gov. Mike Pence on Monday tapped Craig Bobay to be the next Allen County Superior Court judge.

Bobay's appointment fills a vacancy created when Civil Division Judge Dan Heath moved to the Family Relations Division to take over for Judge Stephen M. Sims, who retired in April.

Bobay currently serves as Allen Circuit Court Magistrate.

"Craig Bobay is uniquely qualified to serve on the Allen County Superior Court, a court system in which he has played a valuable and integral role for more than 20 years," Pence said. "I am confident Craig's academic background, experience, integrity and heart for his community will enable him to continue to be a strong leader for Allen County and Indiana as he assumes his new role as Superior Court Judge."

The Allen County Judicial Nominating Commission submitted Bobay's name along with those of Allen Superior Court Magistrate Jennifer DeGroot and Michael Michmerhuizen, a partner at Barrett & McNagny.

Bobay, 56, was working out at the YMCA over his lunch hour when he got the call from Pence.

"I'm very honored and humbled," he said. "Allen County has one of the strongest and most respected benches in the state."

For the past 16 years, Bobay's work as a magistrate has involved primarily family cases. In recent years he has handled a problem-solving criminal court, and said that will be the hardest caseload for him to leave due to the positive impact it is having on the community.

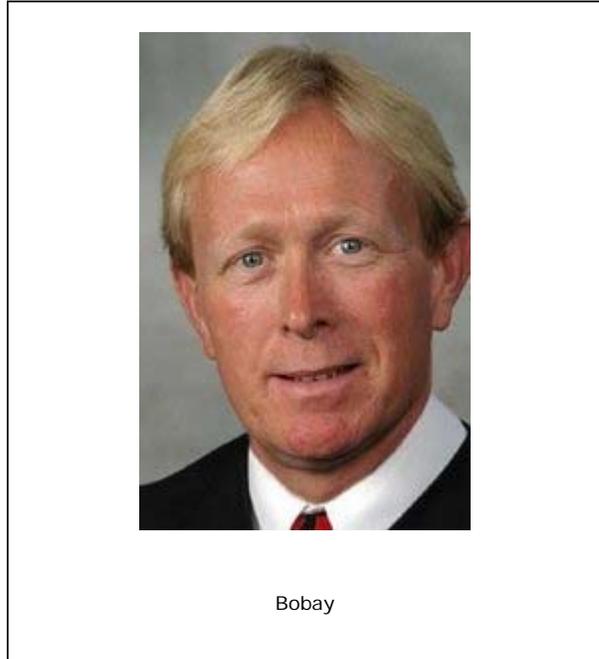
In his new post, Bobay will handle solely civil cases. He thinks he will start there sometime next week.

Allen Circuit Court Judge Tom Felts will name Bobay's replacement as magistrate.

A lifelong Fort Wayne resident, Bobay earned his undergraduate degree from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne and graduated cum laude from Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington.

He has 22 years of experience practicing law in Allen County. Since 1997, he has served as a magistrate in Allen County.

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