



**United States District Court
Southern District of Ohio**
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NEWS RELEASE

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Judge Michael Merz of Dayton, Ohio, is being honored by the American Bar Association for Outstanding Contribution to the field of Judicial Administration. The ABA will present its 2013 Robert B. Yegge Award to Judge Merz at its annual convention in San Francisco early next month.

The Yegge Award is given annually and is named for Dean Robert Yegge, former Dean Emeritus of the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver. Dean Yegge was renowned for his many contributions to judicial administration, particularly as an educator of judicial administrators. Dean Yegge served as Chair of the Lawyers Conference of the ABA in 1987-88.

Judge Merz has served as a United States Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio since 1984. Prior to that, he served 7 years on the Dayton Municipal Court, and before that was a partner in a major law firm in Dayton, Ohio. He retired in 2011 but has been recalled to service on a volunteer basis since that time.

During his judicial career, Magistrate Judge Merz has been especially interested in court administration. He chaired the Judicial Administration and Legal Reform Committee of the Ohio State Bar Association and served the Ohio Supreme Court on its Rules Advisory Committee. In that role he drafted a complete reform of Ohio's magistrate system. Nationally, he has served on the U.S. Magistrate Judges Advisory Group and the Electronic Public Access Working Group of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the policy-making body of the federal judiciary.

Judge Merz was the first elected magistrate judge to serve as a member of the Judicial Council of the Sixth Circuit. The circuit council consists of the chief judge of the circuit, nine federal appellate judges and the chief district judges from the nine districts within the states of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee, plus an elected federal magistrate and bankruptcy judge. The council has broad authority to make necessary and appropriate orders for the effective and expeditious administration of justice within the circuit.

Within the District Court, he serves as Secretary of the Local Rules Committee and has taught the bar admission seminar for more than a quarter century.

Magistrate Judge Merz has been recognized previously as an honorary life fellow of the Ohio State Bar Association, with the City of Dayton's Outstanding Service Award, and by receiving in 2012 the Legacy of Excellence Award of the Dayton Bar Association.

We are proud to have such an outstanding Jurist as Judge Merz serving on our Court. Congratulations Judge Merz on receiving the American Bar Association 2013 Robert B. Yegge award!!!