

Appointed by Democrat Governor Nixon in 2012



Paul C. Wilson Judge of the Supreme Court

PAUL C. WILSON was born May 23, 1961, in Jefferson City, Mo., where his parents, both of whom worked in county or state government positions, raised him to love the law and value public service.

Judge Wilson earned his undergraduate degree in 1982 from Drury College in Springfield, Mo. After college, Judge Wilson moved to New York, where he engaged in post-graduate studies at New York University and was a founding member of the Darfstellar Repertory Theatre in New York City. He was a professional actor and then worked in the hotel industry in New York, Texas, Los Angeles and Chicago before returning to Missouri to study law at the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School.

Judge Wilson earned the highest grade in 17 of his law school courses and ultimately graduated first in his class of 150 students, earning his law degree *cum laude* in 1992. He also represented the law school in moot court competitions for appellate advocacy. His team placed second in the regional competition, and he was awarded third place nationally for his individual oral advocacy skills. Before graduation, he was named to both Order of the Coif, an academic recognition, and Order of the Barristers, a recognition of trial and appellate advocacy skills.

Upon graduation, Judge Wilson served as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Missouri for Judge Edward D. (Chip) Robertson, then at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Lansing, Mich., for Judge Richard F. Suhrheinrich. He then spent two years as a senior litigation associate for the New York law firm Sullivan & Cromwell.

In 1996, Judge Wilson returned to Missouri to work in the state attorney general's office, where he spent 12 years in a variety of increasingly responsible positions, culminating as deputy chief



of staff for litigation. During his tenure there, he took more than a dozen cases from their inception in circuit court through arguments before the state supreme court. He also argued before the federal courts, including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. He later served as senior counsel for budget and finance for the state's Office of Administration and director of the Transform Missouri Project. He served from January through December 2010 as a circuit judge in the 19th Judicial Circuit (Cole County).

Throughout his career, Judge Wilson also has been very involved in the community. He has served on the board of directors for Legal Services of Mid-Missouri, has served as counsel to the board of directors for a local child advocacy center, and has held a number of leadership positions within his church, the First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson City, including deacon, member and moderator of the board of deacons, and elder. He and his wife have two daughters. They make their home in Jefferson City.

Judge Wilson was a member of the Columbia, Mo., law firm of Van Matre, Harrison, Hollis, Taylor & Bacon PC when the governor appointed him to the Supreme Court of Missouri in December 2012.