

NOTE: "Stratton, a Supreme Court justice since 1996, has served with distinction and grace. French's record suggests that she will, too."

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Kasich's laudable Supreme Court choice: editorial

By The Plain Dealer Editorial Board

Gov. John Kasich chose wisely and well in appointing Judge Judith L. French to a looming Ohio Supreme Court vacancy.

French, 50, a native of Sebring, in Mahoning County, is now a judge of the 10th Ohio District Court of Appeals, which is based in Columbus. She will take office as a Supreme Court justice Tuesday, succeeding Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, who is resigning.

French, a cum laude graduate of Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law, will serve the two years remaining in Stratton's term and is expected to ask voters in 2014 for a full, six-year term. Like Kasich, Stratton and French are Republicans.

French has a sterling resume. She was deputy director of legal affairs for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and later chief counsel to Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery, then to Gov. Bob Taft. Perhaps most notably, French persuaded the U.S. Supreme Court in 2002 to reject a challenge to the Cleveland school voucher program, which assists parents in the Cleveland district who want to enroll children in nonpublic schools. Leading the fight against vouchers was the National Education Association.

Editorial continued

here: http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2012/12/kasichs_laudable_supreme_court.html

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