



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 20, 2009
09:052

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GOVERNOR TAPS MINIDOKA COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGE FOR COURT OF APPEALS

(BOISE) – Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter today named **Fifth Judicial District Judge John Michael Melanson** to the Idaho Court of Appeals filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Darrel R. Perry which will occur September 30, 2009.

Melanson, 61, has been a district judge for the past 8 years serving Minidoka County. Prior to serving in Minidoka County, Judge Melanson was a magistrate in Lincoln County for six years. He is currently a resident of Rupert. Before becoming a magistrate, Melanson was in private practice in Buhl, for 13 years.

He and his wife Pamela have six grown children. "I am very excited about this appointment and very humbled by the Governor's decision and I will work every day to live up to the trust he has placed me," Melanson said.

Melanson has lived in Idaho since the age of 13 having relocated to Blackfoot from Connecticut. He received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Idaho State University in 1978 and his law degree from the University of Idaho in 1981. He is also a Vietnam Veteran having served in the U.S. Army from 1969-1970 as a hovercraft operator in the 9th Infantry Division.

"I have tremendous confidence in John and the reputation that he carries into this new appointment," Governor Otter said. "His experience and perspective will be a welcome addition to the court."

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