



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2017

17:035

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GOVERNOR OTTER APPOINTS TRIBE TO FIFTH DISTRICT JUDGESHIP FOR CASSIA COUNTY

(BOISE) - Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter announced the appointment today of Rupert attorney **Michael Tribe** to succeed recently retired Fifth District Judge Michael Crabtree on the Cassia County bench.

Tribe now serves as legal counsel for the cities of Rupert and Heyburn, as well as the Minidoka County and Cassia County school districts. He also is a deputy prosecutor for Minidoka County, handling felony cases. Tribe's municipal legal counsel duties include working with a coalition of 14 Snake River Plain cities on resolving water rights disputes with local groundwater districts.

"The range of legal issues Mike has handled - both civil and criminal - has prepared him well to be a district judge," Governor Otter said. "He is well-known and respected in his community and committed to administering justice professionally and impartially. I'm confident Judge Tribe will be a credit to the Fifth Judicial District and the people of Cassia County."

Tribe is a Virginia native who received his bachelor's degree from Southern Utah University and his law degree from the University of Idaho. Before going into private legal practice he was a law clerk for then-Fifth District Judge Barry Wood. Tribe said that experience inspired him to apply for the court vacancy when Judge Crabtree retired May 31, and that he was "humbled and excited" to be appointed.

"In filling the vacancy created by Judge Crabtree, I hope to continue and emulate his practice of fairness and kindness to all who appeared before him," Tribe said. "I welcome the opportunity to associate more closely with judges I've admired my entire professional career."