Administrative Office of the Courts

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Supreme Court Justice Richard Bosson Planning on Retirement

SANTA FE _ Supreme Court Justice Richard Bosson intends to retire from the state's highest court later this year.

He has served on the five-member Supreme Court since December 2002, and was chief justice in 2005-2006. Before joining the Supreme Court, he was a judge on the state Court of Appeals for eight years and chief judge for two years.

"After 21 years on the appellate courts, it's time to leave and allow younger blood into the Judiciary," Justice Bosson said. "I have enjoyed my tenure immensely and feel very humbled by the opportunity to have served the citizens of New Mexico."

He intends to retire from the Judiciary effective at the end of October.

Justice Bosson expects to notify the governor in due course later this summer of his intention to retire. The process for selecting a replacement would begin once a formal notice is given of his resignation. The term for his position expires Dec. 31, 2020.

Justice Bosson received his Juris Doctor in 1969 from Georgetown University Law Center, and earned an undergraduate degree in 1966 from Wesleyan University. He received a master's degree in judicial process from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1998.

He was a member of the Legal Aid Society of Albuquerque and a founding member of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund in Albuquerque from 1970 to 1974. He spent a year in Colombia in 1975 as a recipient of a Latin American Teaching Fellowship sponsored by the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and associated with the Universidad de los Andes in Bogota.

He then worked in the New Mexico Attorney General's Office in the Consumer Protection Division and was Civil Division director in 1976-78. He entered the private practice of law and was a senior partner of Bosson & Canepa in Santa Fe from 1981 until joining the Court of Appeals in 1994. During his private law practice, he was bond counsel for the State Board of Finance and the city of Santa Fe. He served on the New Mexico Constitutional Revision Commission in 1994-95.

For many years, Bosson was a certified high school soccer referee in New Mexico. He has been married to his wife, Gloria, since 1971 and they have two children, Christopher and Monica and two grandchildren.

The process for filling a court vacancy calls for a bipartisan Judicial Nominating Commission to interview applicants and recommend candidates to the governor for possible appointment. The governor's appointee would be required to run for election in 2016 in order to remain on the court and serve the remainder of Bosson's term. The winner of the November 2016 general election race would then be subject to periodic retention elections. Members of the Supreme Court serve eight year terms.

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