



SUPREME COURT OF KANSAS

KANSAS JUDICIAL CENTER
301 S.W. 10TH AVENUE
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1507

LAWTON R. NUSS
CHIEF JUSTICE

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July 26, 2019

Governor Laura Kelly
Kansas Capitol, Room 241-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Retirement

Dear Governor Kelly:

My wife Barbara and I have decided I will retire from the Supreme Court of Kansas with an effective date of December 17, 2019.

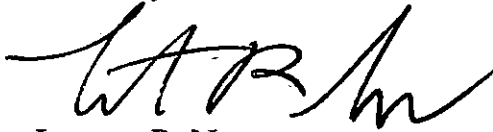
I was first sworn in as a Supreme Court justice on October 17, 2002. For almost 10 of these past 17 years I have worked as Chief Justice – the head of the judicial branch of Kansas government. In contrast, the heads of the executive and legislative branches traditionally operate for no more than eight years in their leadership positions. By those measures alone, certainly, it is time I depart.

I consider my service on the Court to be the greatest privilege of my 37-year legal career. It has given me the honor of working with the nearly two thousand dedicated people – judges and employees alike – of the judicial branch. I am extremely proud of what all these good folks have accomplished for their fellow Kansans.

During my 2002 swearing-in speech, I quoted a former Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court: Charles Evans Hughes. Like my own mother and father, Hughes' parents tried to instill a strong sense of duty in their son. According to the Chief Justice, his strong sense of duty contained two elements. First, he had to do worthy things. Second, he had to do them well. I explained that through my appointment, Governor Bill Graves generously had given me the opportunity to do worthy things. But it was up to me to do them well. I leave it to my fellow Kansans to decide if I succeeded.

I thank you for the many courtesies you have extended me during your tenures both as Kansas senator and governor. I wish you and our state the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. R. Nuss', written in a cursive style.

Lawton R. Nuss
Chief Justice

LRN/sm