

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE BILL 731

By: Shortey

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to judicial term limits; amending 20
8 O.S. 2011, Sections 3 and 35, which relate to Supreme
9 Court and Court of Criminal Appeals; making language
gender neutral; limiting certain terms; and providing
an effective date.

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2011, Section 3, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 3. A. At the regular biennial election in 1918, a
16 Justice shall be elected for each of ~~said~~ the four additional
17 districts, who shall be nominated by the electors of the district in
18 which ~~he~~ the Justice resides, at the primary election, next
19 preceding such biennial election. The Justice for districts six and
20 nine shall be elected for a term of six (6) years; the Justice for
21 district number seven, for a term of four (4) years, and the Justice
22 for district number eight, for a term of two (2) years, and
23 thereafter, three of the Justices of the Supreme Court shall be
24 elected at each general biennial election to serve for a term of six

1 (6) years each, from the second Monday in January, succeeding his or
2 her election. The successors to the existing five Justices shall be
3 elected at the time authorized by existing laws, it not being the
4 purpose of this act to disturb the terms or districts of such
5 Justices.

6 B. Beginning on the effective date of this act and thereafter,
7 no Justice shall serve on the Supreme Court for a period of more
8 than twelve (12) years.

9 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2011, Section 35, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 Section 35. A. Except as otherwise provided for in this
12 subsection, the term of office for Judges of the Court of Criminal
13 Appeals shall be six (6) years. Beginning on the effective date of
14 this act and thereafter, no judge shall serve on the Court of
15 Criminal Appeals for a period of more than twelve (12) years. The
16 initial term of office for the Judge in Court of Criminal Appeals
17 Judicial District No. 4, who shall be the Judge occupying the Court
18 of Criminal Appeals Northern District on October 31, 1987, shall
19 expire on the second Monday in January~~7~~ 1989. The initial term of
20 office for the Judge in Court of Criminal Appeals Judicial District
21 No. 2, who shall be the Judge occupying the Court of Criminal
22 Appeals Southern District on October 31, 1987, shall expire on the
23 second Monday in January~~7~~ 1991. The initial term of office for the
24 Judge in Court of Criminal Appeals Judicial District No. 1, who

1 shall be the Judge occupying the Court of Criminal Appeals Eastern
2 District on October 31, 1987, shall expire on the second Monday in
3 January~~7~~ 1993. The Governor shall appoint a Judge for Court of
4 Criminal Appeals Judicial District No. 5 whose initial term shall
5 commence on the second Monday in January~~7~~ 1989, and expire on the
6 second Monday in January~~7~~ 1995, and a Judge for Court of Criminal
7 Appeals Judicial District No. 3 whose initial term shall commence on
8 the second Monday in January~~7~~ 1989, and expire on the second Monday
9 in January~~7~~ 1997.

10 B. The Court of Criminal Appeals shall organize at the first
11 session following the second Monday in January next after each
12 biennial election. The Judges shall choose from among their members
13 a Presiding Judge and a Vice Presiding Judge who shall be Presiding
14 Judge and Vice Presiding Judge of the ~~said~~ Court for the next two
15 (2) years.

16 C. The organization of the Court of Criminal Appeals existing
17 on October 31, 1987, shall continue until the second Monday in
18 January~~7~~ 1989.

19 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.
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