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## **“Judge Steven E. Gall Named To Supreme Court Task Force”**

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(Cleveland) – Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge Steven E. Gall has been named to an Ohio Supreme Court Task Force to Examine Improvements to the Ohio Grand Jury System.

The 18 member task force includes a diverse group of 18 professionals who are judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law professors, legislators, members of law enforcement, and community leaders.

"I am honored to be a part of this group," says Judge Gall. "We will look at what works with the grand jury process, and what potential improvements could be made."

Judge Gall and Judge Michael J. Russo are jointly leading a similar committee of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judges who are examining the local grand jury process.

The concept of a grand jury has been part of the federal system since 1791 and a constant in the Ohio Constitution's Bill of Rights as far back as 1802. Every state constitutional revision since has preserved the protection of the grand jury.

“To be clear, this task force is being asked to recommend ways to improve the functioning of grand juries and to see what additional steps can be taken to improve the public's confidence in our justice system,” says Supreme Court of Ohio Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor. “It is not being asked to determine whether the grand jury system should be eliminated.”

Chaired by Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Stephen L. McIntosh, the task force will hold its first meeting on Feb. 17, 2016 from 6-8 p.m. at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center, 65 S. Front St., Columbus. The meeting is open to the public, but seating is limited. The task force has been asked to submit its final report and recommendations by June 15, 2016.