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Contact: Mark Samsel

227 Edgewood Drive

Wellsville, KS 66092

(785) 418-4962

Mark@MarkSamsel.org

December 28, 2017



Wellsville Native, Attorney, Referee Files for Kansas House

WELLSVILLE – Mark Samsel, an attorney at the Lathrop Gage law firm has filed to run for the Republican nomination for the 5th District in the Kansas House on August 7, 2018. The District includes parts of Anderson, Franklin, Linn, and Miami Counties, including the cities of Osawatomie, Garnett, Parker, Colony, Rantoul, Westphalia, Lane, Princeton, Greeley, Richmond, and Samsel's hometown of Wellsville.

"With our current State Representative running for U.S. Congress, a vacancy was created in my hometown district. There is no greater personal and professional privilege than giving back to the communities and people I love and the neighbors who helped raise me, including the distinct honor of seeking to represent them in Topeka," Samsel said.

He continued, "As a high school athlete, I developed relationships with other players, teachers, and coaches across this region." Samsel is now frequently seen on the court or field, refereeing youth and high school basketball and soccer. From enforcing the rules on one court to litigating them in another, both sports and the law have taught him to "call it both ways, ref!" He now looks forward to the opportunity of helping write the rules and solve problems in Topeka beginning in January 2019. Samsel added, "Understanding and empathy for all sides of an issue helps to arrive at a better solution for all Kansans – and for the 5th District."

Samsel is a strong supporter of all education, public, private, and home school, and including early childhood, K-12, and higher education and trade schools. He recognizes its role in recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce in rural Kansas and beyond. "While the legislature's perspective on responsible governing has improved since the 2016 election cycle, more work can be done, specifically with regard to our State's physical and mental health infrastructure," Samsel noted. "I want to work with change-agents in the legislature to continue forward progress on these issues which hit close to home for my future constituents in Osawatomie and the surrounding communities which staff and serve the facility," he said.

Beyond his legal career, Mark serves as a member of the Southwest Johnson County Economic Development Corporation, the KC Sports Commission, and KC Scholars, and he volunteers for youth clinics and the Blue Valley School District's renowned Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS).

Samsel graduated from Missouri Valley College, where he was subsequently named their 2015 Outstanding Young Alumnus for his personal and professional achievements and his humanitarian contributions to society, and from the University of Kansas School of Law, where he was on the Kansas Law Review. He has been named a Mo/Kan *SuperLawyers* "Rising Star" since 2014.

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Paid for by Mark Samsel for Kansas House, Barbara Patton, Treasurer

227 Edgewood Drive • Wellsville, KS 66092

Mark@MarkSamsel.org • 785-418-4962