

Tacha nominated as judge

By Gary Duda
Of the Kansas staff

Deannell Tacha, vice chancellor for academic affairs, was nominated yesterday as judge for the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals by President Reagan.

The offices of both Kansas senators announced that Tacha had been nominated by the president. They said the nomination would be passed to the Senate today.

Tacha, who had been one of the top nominees for the judgeship, said she was honored by the president's nomination. She said she was grateful for the support she had received from both Kansas senators.

"I am honored by this nomination," she said. "I have appreciated the support of Senators Dole and Kassebaum and many members of the bar in Kansas. I consider this position to be one of the highest public trusts in our nation."

If confirmed by the Senate, Tacha will be the second woman in history to be appointed

to the 10th Circuit bench and only the 17th woman appointed in the 100-year history of the Circuit Court of appeals.

"I shall endeavor to bring to the Federal Bench the full measure of my abilities, energy and commitment to the American system of justice," she said.

Tacha said she learned yesterday of the nomination in a phone call from the president. She said she had been informed the previous day that he would be calling.

"I told my kids that he might call," she said. "They said I might be as important as Bret Saberhagen." Reagan talked with Saberhagen, the pitcher for the Kansas City Royals in the seventh game of the World Series, after the game last Sunday.

Tacha said she was very happy about the nomination but would be sorry to leave the University.

"I have very mixed emotions because I will miss the University," she said.

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., recommended Tacha for the position in June. The 10th Cir-

cuit covers Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico.

Dole said Kansas could be proud of Tacha's nomination. He said she would be a fine addition to the 10th Circuit Court.

"Deannell Tacha's nomination to the 10th Circuit Court by President Reagan is a proud day for Kansas," Dole said in a prepared statement. "She brings outstanding qualifications to the Senate. Her background in law, teaching, college administration and government is truly impressive."

Dole said he could not see any difficulty in her "swift acceptance" by the Senate.

The judgeship, which is a lifetime appointment, would pay Tacha \$83,200 a year.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., said she thought Tacha was very qualified for the judgeship.

"Deannell Tacha will be an outstanding addition to the 10th Circuit Court," she said in a prepared statement. "She has both the common sense and the keen understanding of the law that is necessary to be a fine judge."

Tacha, a 1968 KU graduate, became the vice chancellor for academic affairs in 1981. She previously was the associate vice chancellor for academic affairs.

KU Chancellor Gene A. Budig congratulated Tacha on her nomination. He said Tacha had been an asset to the University.

"We congratulate Deannell Tacha on her nomination and thank her for her many significant contributions to the University of Kansas," Budig said. "We are a better institution because of her efforts here over the years. She will be missed and difficult to replace."

Tacha, once an associate dean of the KU School of Law, was instrumental in developing programs to enhance educational opportunities for KU students. She is now involved in the academic evaluation efforts underway at the University.

Budig said that, while Tacha wouldn't be easy to replace, he and the University ad-

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ministration would act as soon as possible to fill the position.

"We will move with dispatch to fill the position of vice chancellor for academic affairs," Budig said. "It is a critically important position on the Lawrence campus. We are in the process of consulting with appropriate faculty and staff and reviewing procedures."

The presidential nomination, however, isn't the last hurdle Tacha must clear before becoming a federal judge.

Francis Heller, professor of law, said the next step would be for the Senate Judiciary to hold hearings. He said Tacha, as well as other interested parties, would appear at the hearings.

"Tacha has either already received or will shortly receive a list of questions the Senate is interested in," Heller said.

After the hearings are over, Heller

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**—Deanell Tacha
U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals nominee**

said, the Senate Judiciary will make a recommendation in favor of or against the approval of the nomination. He said it was also possible that the Judiciary would make no recommendation.

Heller said the Senate would then put the recommendation on its calendar for a vote by the full Senate.

Tacha said she was to appear

before the Senate Judiciary but she was unsure when.

Tacha, 39, said if she were to become judge, she would stay in Kansas.

Tacha said the court would meet in Colorado but she and her family would be staying in Lawrence.

Tacha, from Scandia, is married to John Tacha. The Tachas have four children.

After graduating from law school at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Tacha served a year as a White House fellow in the U.S. Department of Labor. There she directed a task force on welfare reform.

Tacha, who had been reluctant in the past to comment on whether she would accept the judgeship, admitted that she had been interested in the position for some time.

"I thought all along that I would accept it if it were offered," she said.



Deanell Tacha