Miner takes step toward judgeship

HUDSON — U.S. District Court Judge Roger Miner says he has received "preliminary approval" for appointment to the Second Circuit, U.S. District Court of Appeals.

He told The Register-Star this morning that the Justice Department and the White House had approved him for one of two new seats on the court, which covers New York, Connecticut, and Vermont.

"Officials from the Justice Department called me last week to say I had gotten preliminary approval," Judge Miner related.

Next step is for the FBI to investigate his background and make a recommendation to the White House. The FBI and the American Bar Association must clear him if he is to be appointed, he said.

"After that, I've been led to believe that the White House will send my name to the Senate for approval," Judge Miner said.

"It's encouraging news, of course," he said, "but nobody has told me I've been appointed yet. Actually, I'm at the same stage I was when they told me I was under consideration."

Justice Department officials in Washington had interviewed Judge Miner for the position the first week in April. He said at the time that the interviews were "very positive."

The Court of Appeals is one step below the U.S. Supreme Court. Judge Miner's chambers would remain in Albany.

The 50-year-old Republican formerly served as Columbia County district attorney and State Supreme Court judge. He was appointed to his present seat by President Reagan in 1981. (gs)