



**Michigan District
Judges Association**

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DEDICATION

This booklet is dedicated to 50 years of district court personnel, as well as others who have worked in the courts, for serving the people of Michigan with honor, integrity, and the highest professional standards.

**For more information,
visit www.courts.mi.gov/mdja50**

Captions for Cover Page Photos:

Left - In 1968, the late Hon. J. Robert Smolenski is sworn in as a judge of the 61st District Court in Grand Rapids. Two of his children seen in the photo went on to become judges, as well: his daughter, Hon. Sara J. Smolenski (front row, far left), is a current judge of the 63rd District Court in Grand Rapids and served as MDJA President in 1999; and his late son, Hon. Michael R. Smolenski (front row, center), served as a judge of the 61st District Court, then the Kent County Circuit Court, and later the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Center - (l to r) From the 46th District Court in Southfield: Hon. Susan Moiseev (1986-2012, MDJA President 2009), Magistrate Donna Posey (2008-14); Hon. William Richards (2007-15); Hon. Shelia Johnson (2002-present, MDJA President 2018); and Magistrate Kay Stanfield-Spinks (1987-2000).

Right - The Hon. David W. Fershee of the 90th District Court in Charlevoix (left) swearing in his brother, Paul, who is being sponsored by their brother, John (far right).

Please note that not all judge or court information could be verified.



MESSAGE FROM MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE STEPHEN J. MARKMAN

Michigan's Constitution of 1963 calls for "the judicial power of the state [to be] vested exclusively in... one supreme court, one court of appeals, one... circuit court, one probate court, and courts of limited jurisdiction that the legislature may establish..."

In 1968, the Michigan Legislature did just that, passing Act 154, creating the district court system that serves as the foundation of the state judiciary. This year, my colleagues and I are incredibly proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this milestone.

With several jurisdictional levels within the Michigan court system, the public may find it difficult to keep track of all the different types of courts and their respective responsibilities. Michigan currently has 102 district courts, which are often referred to as "The People's Court," because the public has more contact with them than with any other court in the state, and because many people go to district court without an attorney.

District court has exclusive jurisdiction over all civil claims for damages up to \$25,000 — including small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, and civil infractions — as well as all misdemeanor criminal cases. They also handle many traffic violations and civil marriage ceremonies, as well as a wide variety of civil and criminal proceedings.

The Supreme Court has partnered with the Michigan District Judges Association to produce this commemorative booklet that aims to shed light on the rich and fascinating history of Michigan's district courts, as well as celebrating those who were leaders in this vitally important court system. From the first president, Hon. Alice Gilbert, to the current president, Hon. Shelia Johnson, the MDJA has been a leader in efforts to better serve the public.

We have included biographical information for each of the original 150 district judges, as well as a detailed history of key events over the past 50 years. In this regard, special thanks are due to Judge William Kelly for his conscientious work and scholarship in preparing that historical analysis.

I hope that by illuminating the people and events that have shaped Michigan's district court system, this booklet will foster a greater understanding and appreciation of our judiciary as a whole.

In addition to this booklet, we have provided resources to enable district courts across Michigan to host their own local anniversary celebrations and to honor those who have served in their courts over the years. Those resources may be found at www.courts.mi.gov/mdja50.



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MICHIGAN DISTRICT COURTS: THE FIRST 50 YEARS

By Judge William G. Kelly, 62B District Court Chief Judge

As we celebrate the 50th birthday of the establishment of district courts, it is important to remember the reason for their creation, as well as the transformations, successes, and milestones that they have experienced throughout their existence.

The rich history of the district courts, its judges, and their work is detailed in this book to preserve the foundations these institutions have laid for our district court system today. From its founding in 1968, district courts have played a vital role in various court functions. As we remember the past 50 years of the district court system, we also look forward to the continued success of this esteemed institution for many more years to come.

Article VI, §26 of the 1963 Michigan Constitution provides, as follows:

The offices of circuit court commissioner and justice of the peace are abolished at the expiration of five years from the date this constitution becomes effective or may within this period be abolished by law. Their jurisdiction, compensation and powers within this period shall be as provided by law. Within this five-year period, the legislature shall establish a court or courts of limited jurisdiction with powers and jurisdiction defined by law.

After lengthy debates in the Legislature concerning the establishment of a court or courts of limited jurisdiction, Governor George Romney signed 1968 PA 154 on June 17, 1968, abolishing the offices of justices of the peace and circuit court commissioners and establishing district courts as of January 1, 1969. On January 1, 1969, five years after the effective date of the Michigan Constitution, 150 district court judges took the bench, 124 of them had been elected in November 1968 and 26 were blanketed in as incumbent municipal judges. Since then, much has changed and much has remained the same.



*Chief Judge Kelly
MDJA President 1989*

Courts Change with the Times

In the 50 years since, there have been several changes concerning technology, diversification, court resources, court financing, the district court's jurisdiction, the laws that the district courts preside over, and social trends that have affected the district courts.

Economic downturns in the state budget have affected the district courts with increases in fees and cutbacks in the judicial budget. In 1980, the annual three-day conference up north was canceled and the district court judges met for one day in Lansing. In 1981, the Regional Administrators Offices were closed overnight in order to save money. In 2003, several court fees were increased significantly and the Driver Responsibility Fee was established. In 2008, many district court employees were laid off.

Over the decades, there have been trends to emphasize certain areas of our work. In 1971, President Nixon declared a war on drugs. That war has been fought in the district courts since then. In the 1980s and 1990s, drunk driving laws were changed significantly. Also, in



the 1980s, courts were asked to process cases more promptly and caseload management guidelines were established. The 1980s also saw discussions about racial bias and gender bias. In the 1990s, prosecutors began to more aggressively prosecute domestic assault cases and district court judges received training on these cases. In the 2000s, there was an emphasis on enforcing collection of fines and costs. In the last decade there has been an emphasis on determining a person's ability to pay and on implicit bias. In the last decade we have seen a number of problem-solving courts created in response to drugs, drunk driving, mental health issues, and the issues affecting veterans.

In the 1980s and 1990s district courts started to computerize their management of cases. Fax machines were installed in courts and at the homes of judges on call. In the 1990s, judges began communicating via e-mail. Now we are beginning to implement statewide e-filing in the courts.

Growth of District Courts

The statute creating the district courts was enacted at the last minute. The court of limited jurisdiction had to be created by January 1, 1969. Judges had to be elected in November 1968. In the *Michigan Bar Journal* December 1968 issue, Tom Downs and Leslie Butler, the chairman and vice chairman of the State Bar Committee on Legislation discussed the debate.

“Some wanted to keep, in effect, the justice of the peace system. Some wanted to allow non-lawyers to serve as district court judges. Some wanted to delay action—but that constitutional deadline for action faced them.

One highlight of the new law is the fact that district court judges must be attorneys and full-time judges, experienced in the laws which they must confront.

Where justices of the peace were paid through fees, a system often criticized, district court judges will receive salaries, a minimum of \$18,000 and a maximum of \$27,500.

Difficulties in the Legislature hinged partly on the need for two-thirds majorities in both the House and the Senate if a new court was to be created. This

requirement is in the state constitution.

The new law was admittedly a compromise. Whether it is perfect is no longer the point. If experience shows the need, amendments to the law now can be achieved by a simple majority in the legislative chambers.”

In 1968, many communities decided to retain municipal courts rather than become part of the district court. During the 1970s and 1980s most municipal courts were replaced by district courts. On September 1, 1981, the Detroit Common Pleas Court and the Traffic and Ordinance Division of the Records Court became the 36th District Court. Some district courts of the third-class (courts consisting of one or more political subdivisions of a county) were merged with district courts of the second class (courts funded by a county in which there are third-class courts) to form district courts of the first class (courts consisting of one or more counties funded by the county government) while other district courts split resulting in courts with the designations of “A” or “B” after the number of the district court. By 1989, only the four municipal courts in the Grosse Pointes remained and those four courts remain in operation today.

Michigan District Court Judges Association

The new district court judges formed the Michigan District Court Judges Association (MDJA) on March 14, 1969. Since then, district court judges and the MDJA have worked hard to improve services to the public and to improve operation of the district courts. MDJA has done this by:

1. working with the legislative and executive branches,
2. improving the sound and efficient administration of justice in the district court, and
3. encouraging among members of the association and the practicing bar, the highest level of judicial and legal competence.

Members of MDJA have worked with the Supreme Court, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), the Michigan Judges Association, the Michigan Probate Judges Association, the State Bar of Michigan, the Legislature, the

Michigan State Police, the Secretary of State, and other governmental agencies on countless matters.

MDJA's Legislative Committee and the Board review proposed legislation that affects district courts and district court judges. MDJA shares its insights with the sponsors of the bills and leadership in the Legislature. MDJA has also proposed legislation to improve the courts. Judge Don Goodwillie of South Haven was our advocate in the Legislature in the 1970s and early 1980s. He left the bench in 1982 and MDJA became one of the first clients of Governmental Consultants Services, Inc. in 1983.

The MDJA Rules Committee reviews all proposed rules and, when necessary, communicates those concerns to the Michigan Supreme Court. The Rules Committee also proposes amendments to the court rules.

MDJA's Program Committee plans the annual conference in conjunction with the Michigan Judicial Institute. The Communications Committee publishes our newsletter Benchmarks and promotes activities to bring about an increased public awareness of the district courts. The Technology Committee serves as webmaster for the MDJA website.

Technology

One of the biggest changes in the courts today compared to the courts of 1969 is that of technology.

Typewriters, carbon paper, and index cards were the technologies used by the district courts in 1969 to prepare documents and to keep track of cases. In the 1970s, the Secretary of State provided each district court with an IBM Selectric typewriter with an OCR font to prepare, in triplicate, the abstracts of convictions for driving offenses to be sent to Lansing for input into the Secretary of State's computers.

In 1969, the court had to wait until the police department brought the traffic ticket to the court. Then, the clerk had to read the ticket to determine the defendant and the charge and not all of the police officers wrote in a legible manner. The clerk then had to prepare a file and an index card to keep track of the case and log the ticket into the log book. The defendant

had a right to a jury trial on the traffic ticket. If the defendant paid the ticket, the file had to be retrieved, the index card had to be updated, and the receipt was prepared in triplicate on a pegboard system. The clerk then had to type out an abstract to send to the Secretary of State.

In 1971, the Judicial Data Center (JDC) was established with a mission to "foster improvements in the administration of justice through the introduction of modern technological services in the courts of Michigan."

In 1973, all attorneys were issued a P-number so that each attorney would have a unique identification.

In 1975, JDC implemented the District Court System (DCS) in three courts based on a Unisys platform. More courts were added to this platform and they were connected by a line from the courts to the mainframe based in Detroit.

In 1980, Quadtran implemented a case management system using a mainframe connected with terminals in local courts.

In 1986, Judicial Management Systems (JMS) implemented its first district court case management system using the IBM AS400 platform in Cheboygan.

In 1986, the Office of Systems Management (OSM) (formally JDC), implemented its first district court case management system on the IBM AS400 platform in Port Huron. In 2018, most courts throughout the state use a case management systems on the AS400 platform.

In 2001, the Judicial Information Systems (JIS), (formerly OSM), began work on a Statewide Judicial Data Network connecting all trial court locations for electronic submission of Secretary of State and LEIN data. This work was completed in 2005.

In 2002, Saginaw County started electronic citations by which the police issued a ticket on a computer, which then transferred the information into the police department's case management system and the court's case management system.

In 2003, the judicial technology improvement fund was



established and it receives 11.1% of the Civil Filing Fee Fund. *supra*.

In 2003, the Judicial Data Warehouse came on line, which allowed courts to see data about court cases in other courts throughout the state.

In 2003, JIS began work on a statewide e-filing system with IBM but later decided to not continue with this program due to the cost.

In 2007, Oakland County Circuit Court received an Administrative Order for e-filing selected case types. Circuit courts in Wayne, Macomb, Ottawa, Grand Traverse, and the Kent County Business Court also received Administrative Orders for e-filing selected case types.

In 2010, JIS began installing video systems in courtrooms targeted at reducing MDOC prisoner transport costs. By 2016, all Michigan judges' courtrooms were equipped with Internet connected video systems and this system has saved more than \$25 million in transportation costs for the state and local funding units.

In 2016, civil filing fees were increased to establish an e-filing fund. In 2017, ImageSoft was selected as the vendor to provide the e-filing system in the state of Michigan. In 2018, the implementation of e-filing in courts is beginning.

Today, in many district courts, the police officer issues a ticket on a computer, the information is transferred into the police department's case management system and the court's case management system. The defendant has a right to contest the ticket in a formal or informal hearing. The defendant can pay over the Internet. The abstract to the Secretary of State is generated by the court's case management system. In many cases, the clerk does not have to enter anything or prepare any files.

Since each court is locally funded for its operations, the computerization of the courts has been disjointed. Today, some district courts use the case management system provided by the state of Michigan while other district courts use case management systems provided

by private vendors, Judicial Management Systems, Quadtran, or Full Court Enterprise.

Diversity

Another major change from the courts of 1969 and today is the diversity of the people coming to court and the diversity of the members of the bench.

Limited English Proficiency

The increase in demand for interpreters in courts has been one of the major changes in the first 50 years of the district courts. Dearborn is home to the largest Arab speaking community outside of the Middle East. Spanish speaking people have moved to Michigan in large numbers. Students from all over the world attend universities in Michigan. Refugees from conflicts around the globe have settled in Michigan. This globalization has resulted in a need for interpreters in court. In 1989, some district courts began using Language Line, an over-the-telephone interpreting service, to communicate with Limited English Proficiency individuals.

In 2013, the Michigan Supreme Court adopted MCR 1.111 and MCR 8.127 concerning the use of interpreters in courts. District court judges were part of the committee that drafted these rules to require that certified or qualified interpreters be used whenever possible. A district court judge sits on the Foreign Language Board of Review that sets the standards for interpreters.

Diversity on the Bench

In 1969, of the 150 judges, there was one African-American district court judge, Charles Pratt of the 8th District Court, and two female district court judges, Mary McDevitt of the 39th District Court and Alice Gilbert of 48th District Court.

Judicial Resources

In 1968, the Legislature determined the number of judges for each district. Bruce Timmons, who started working as an intern in the House of Representatives in 1967 on the District Court Act and stayed with the Legislature until 2012, recalls, "House Judiciary

Committee Chair Don Holbrook, Jr, devised his own formula for the initial allocation of district court judges. A key component was caseload. He requested criminal caseload data from every municipal court, justice of the peace records, and every county treasurer to whom justices of the peace had to account. He obtained responses from 82 of 83 counties. I think that Holbrook estimated civil caseload as correlating with population, but he factored in the criminal caseload based on the data he gathered statewide. He combined those two numbers and his formula worked out pretty darned well.

In the 1980s, SCAO determined the need for judges based on the number of cases that a court started and used a regressive equation method. This favored small courts and made it difficult for larger courts to justify the need for additional judges.

In 1996, the Legislature created the Trial Court Assessment Commission to report to the Legislature regarding the number of trial court judges needed, the need for revisions to the courts or the court system, and the implementation of revisions to the courts or the court system. The Commission was also to study and classify the civil and criminal cases filed in Michigan trial courts, develop criteria for determining the relative complexity of the various types of cases, and recommend a funding formula for the operation of those courts, taking caseload complexity into account.

In 1997, SCAO contracted with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to conduct a time study to determine a weighted caseload taking into account the time required to handle the various types of cases that judges preside over. Other time studies were conducted in 2000, 2006, 2010, and 2018. The weighted caseloads are then used to determine the need for judicial resources.

In 2011, the Judicial Resources Report took into consideration how many circuit, probate, and district court judges were in a county and determined how many judges each county required. Several district court judgeships were eliminated and probate judges were assigned to preside over the district court jurisdiction as well as the probate court jurisdiction.

Court financing has been a frequent topic throughout the 50 years of the district courts. Each district court is an administrative unit and each district court has a funding unit that is a local unit of government. The state pays a portion of the judge's salary and the local funding unit then supplements the state judicial salary up to the maximum salary allowed for a district court judge. All of the other expenses of the district court are paid by the local funding unit.

The revenue from the district courts is distributed to the local funding unit, the county library, and various funds in the state government pursuant to formulae established in the state constitution and a number of statutes. Over the years this has led to a great deal of tension among the courts and various units of government.

In the 1970s, there was a national movement toward equalization of funding for trial courts across states. Since this time there have been many discussions about statewide financing, but only small steps have been taken.

In 1979, Chief Justice Mary Coleman spoke at the MDJA annual meeting and stated that full state funding was expected by 1985. It did not happen.

In 1979, the state proposed taking over jury fees, reimbursement for appointed counsel, capital improvements, and funding for uniform salaries. During the 1980s, the state did provide funding for uniform salaries for judges.

On September 1, 1981, the Common Pleas Court and the Traffic and Ordinance Division of Recorders Court were merged into the 36th District Court in Detroit. Employees of the 36th District Court became employees of the State Judicial Council for the next 15 years until the State Judicial Council was discontinued. This was to be the first step in state financing of the courts and relieving the counties and the cities of financing the courts. The act provided that the Legislature shall appropriate sufficient funds in order to fund:

1. at least 20% of all court operational expense beginning Oct. 1, 1983
2. at least 40% of all court operational expense beginning Oct. 1, 1984

Court Financing



3. at least 60% of all court operational expense beginning Oct. 1, 1985
4. at least 80% of all court operational expense beginning Oct. 1, 1986
5. at least 100% of all court operational expense beginning Oct. 1, 1988

During the early 1980s, interest rates were very high, unemployment was high, and the state economy was struggling. The next steps did not take place other than providing for uniform judicial salaries statewide.

In 1986, Senator Connie Binsfeld spoke with the MDJA Board and indicated support for state funding of some court services.

In 1987, Chief Justice G. Mennen Williams unveiled a three-step program to improve Michigan courts. First, creation of a Racial and Gender Bias Task Force; second, formation of a Caseflow Management Committee; and third, state financing. District court judges participated in the Racial and Gender Bias Task Forces and a report was prepared. District court judges participated in the Caseflow Management Committee and guidelines were established. Those standards form the basis of the standards that exist today. Statewide financing did not happen.

In 2013, the Michigan Supreme Court decided the case of *People v. Cunningham*, 496 Mich 145 and ruled that the court had no statutory authority to levy court costs. The Legislature passed an amendment to MCL 769.1k to give courts the authority to assess court costs but the MDJA was successful in inserting a sunset in the bill so that the state could look at the issue of statewide financing of trial courts. As a result of that sunset provision, the Michigan Trial Court Funding Commission has been established at MDJA's request and three district court judges serve on the commission.

Increases in Fees Assessed

One way to finance the court and other parts of the government is through court fees. The fees in traffic, criminal, and civil cases have been increased over the years a number of times.

In 1969, a judgment fee of \$3 was added to each criminal judgment. The revenue generated by this fee was to defray the costs of the state in its role of financing the district courts. Over the years, several fees were added and increased to fund various activities in the state court system and the state government outside of the court system.

In 1965, the Law Enforcement Officers Training Fund received 10% of every fine, penalty, and forfeiture imposed and collected by the courts for criminal offense. This was ruled unconstitutional just before the district courts started operating. The court ruled that these were supplemental fines and all fines for violating a state statute were to be used exclusively for the support of libraries as required in the state constitution.

In 2003, the state budget and local budgets were facing enormous strains. The Legislature raised a number of fees upon civil infractions, misdemeanors, and civil filings to fund the courts. The Legislature also added a Driver Responsibility Fee on people convicted of a variety of traffic offenses.

The only fee to remain unchanged is the fee for a judge to perform a marriage. The fee established in 1968 of \$10, which goes to the local funding unit remains the same today.

Civil Infractions

When the district courts were started, traffic offenses were misdemeanors and a person charged with a traffic offense had a right to a jury trial. On August 1, 1979, most traffic violations became civil infractions. Over the years, numerous fees have been added to traffic civil infractions. These fees included the following:

- In 1982, a \$5 fee for the Law Enforcement Officers Training Fund.
- In 1987, a \$5 fee as a highway safety assessment to serve as a supplement to, and not as a replacement for, the funds budgeted for the Department of State Police.
- In 1991, a \$5 assessment for secondary road patrol and training assessment.
- In 2001, the secondary road patrol assessment was increased to \$10.

- In 2001, a Jail Reimbursement Program assessment of \$5.

Courts were required to account for how much money was collected in each of the fees listed above and then the money was transmitted to the state. In 2003, the Legislature combined the \$25 of fees assessed to each traffic civil infraction into one fee of \$40. The district courts were also required to assess \$10 for each non-traffic civil infraction.

The revenue from the minimum costs for civil infractions went to the Justice System Fund, see *infra*. Unifying the fees simplified the administration for the district courts and allowed the Legislature to slice and dice the revenue into several funds. This fund distributes the money to the funds that received the assessments prior to 2003 and to some other activities.

Minimum Costs on Misdemeanors

The \$3 judgment fee established in 1968 has increased several times.

- In 1970, the \$3 fee was increased to \$4 as costs rather than a “judgment fee” and 35% of the fee was sent to the Judges Retirement System.
- In 1975, the Legislature provided that the court assess \$5 for each conviction and guilty plea except for parking violations. The statute provided that 6% of these costs would go to the Legislative Retirement Fund, 9% of these costs would go to the Judges Retirement System, and the balance would go to the general fund of the state.
- The costs increased in 1993 to \$9 with the extra money sent to the newly created State Court Fund, *infra*.
- In 2003, the minimum costs were increased to \$60 for a felony, \$45 for a serious or specified misdemeanor listed in the Victim Rights Act, and \$40 for other misdemeanors. The revenue generated by these fees are sent to the Justice System Fund, *infra*, which was created at the same time as the increase in these fees.

- In 2009, each of the fees were increased to \$68 for a felony, \$53 for serious or specified misdemeanors, and \$48 for other misdemeanors.
- In 2011, the assessments were changed to \$50 for any misdemeanor. The monies were then sent to the Justice System Fund, *infra*.

Drivers License Reinstatement Fee

If a person fails to comply with a judgment on a civil infraction or fails to appear in court, the court can ask the Secretary of State to suspend the person’s license. After payment of the fines and costs, the driver must pay a reinstatement fee.

- In 1969, the reinstatement fee was \$2 was paid to the Secretary of State.
- In 1980 the fee was \$10 paid at the court and the money was sent to the local funding unit.
- This fee was increased to \$25 in 1988 with \$15 going to the Secretary of State and \$10 to the local funding unit.
- In 2003, the fee was increased to \$45 with \$15 going to the Secretary of State, \$15 going to the local funding unit, and \$15 to the Jury Reimbursement Fund.

If a person’s license is suspended by the Secretary of State, the person must pay a reinstatement fee to the Secretary of State.

- In 1982, the reinstatement fee was set at \$25 and the money was for the Secretary of State.
- In 1988, this fee was increased from \$25 to \$60 and the additional \$35 was for the Transportation Economic Development Fund in the Department of Transportation. This fund is available to state, county, and city road agencies for immediate highway needs relating to a variety of economic development issues.
- In 1991, this reinstatement fee was increased to \$125 and \$25 of the additional money was sent to Secretary of State, \$10 for the Drunk Driving Prevention Equipment and Training Fund, and \$30



for the Drunk Driving Caseflow Assistance Fund.

Victim Rights Fee

In 1989, the Legislature created the Victim Rights Assessment Commission to provide for the payment of crime victim rights services. The district courts were required to assess a fee of \$30 for felonies and \$20 for serious misdemeanors listed in MCL 780.811 or specified misdemeanors listed in the statute. Courts had to be mindful of which misdemeanors required a victim rights assessment. The district court was allowed to send 10% of the assessments to its funding unit to defray the costs of collecting the fee.

In 1994, the assessments were increased to \$40 for felonies and \$30 for serious misdemeanors or specified misdemeanors listed in the statute.

In 1996, the assessments were increased to \$60 for felonies and \$50 for the serious misdemeanors or specified misdemeanors listed in the statute.

From 2008 until 2010, the Legislature provided that any excess revenue that had not been used prior to October 1, 2010, for crime victim compensation could be used for the operation and enhancement of the sex offender registry, the Amber Alert system, treatment services for victims of criminal sexual conduct, polygraph examinations, and the expert witness testimony of a forensic scientist.

In 2010, the victim rights fee was increased to \$130 for a felony and \$75 for any misdemeanor. The local funding unit receives 10% of the fee. After 2010, any excess revenue that has not been used for crime victim compensation may be used to provide for establishment and maintenance of a statewide trauma system, including staff support associated with trauma and related emergency medical services program activities. The statewide trauma system now receives \$3,500,000 per year from the Crime Victim Rights Fund through October 1, 2021. The Crime Victim Rights Fund spends about \$16,900,000 on the crime victims' rights and has about \$30,000,000 in the fund.

Civil Filing Fees

In 1969, the filing fee was \$10 if the amount in controversy exceeded \$100 and \$5 if it did not exceed \$100. The Judges Retirement System received 35% of these fees. For each civil judgment, a \$2 judgment fee was assessed. The funding unit received the judgment fees and the balance of the filing fees. The judgment fee was repealed in 1984. The filing fees have increased over the years. [See Table 1.] Today, the local funding unit receives:

- \$31 from a \$160 filing fee,
- \$23 from a \$75 filing fee,
- \$17 from a \$55 filing fee, and
- \$11 from a \$30 filing fee.

From the money sent to the local funding unit, \$5 is to be set aside to fund a drug treatment court if the local court has a drug treatment court.

In 1968, 35% of the filing fee was transmitted to the Judges Retirement System.

In 1983, the local funding unit received the same amount as they had before and the additional fees were sent to the Judges Retirement System.

In 1985, the Legislature set the jury fee in the same amount as the filing fee. The fee was sent to the local funding unit. In 1993, the fee was set at \$40. In 2003, the fee was increased to \$50 and the additional \$10 was sent to the Juror Compensation Reimbursement Fund, *infra*, which was created at the same time.

With the 1985 increase 45% was sent to the Judges Retirement System.

In 1988, all civil filing fees were increased by \$2 and the additional revenue went to the Community Dispute Resolution Fund to support alternate dispute resolution programs.

The increases in 1993 funded the State Court Fund, *infra*. Until 1993, a trial fee equal to the filing fee was required to be paid before trial and this was repealed at the same time the State Court Fund was created.

Table 1

	1969	1971	1972	1973	1983	1985	1988	1993	1998	2003	2016
Under \$100	\$5										
\$100 or over	\$10										
Under \$500		\$5	\$5								
\$500 or over		\$12	\$12								
Under \$600					\$10	\$10	\$12	\$17	\$17	\$25	\$30
Over \$600					\$17	\$20	\$22	\$32	\$32	\$45	\$50
Small Claims over \$1,750 starting in 2000									\$32	\$65	\$70
General Civil over \$1,750								\$52	\$52	\$65	\$75
\$3,000 or over			\$20	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$32				
\$10,000 or over									\$100	\$150	\$160
Possession only in summary proceedings				\$12	\$17	\$20	\$22	\$32	\$32	\$45	\$55
Trial fee						Filing fee	Filing fee	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Motion fee									\$20 if case over \$10,000	\$20 on all cases	\$20 on all cases
Jury fee	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	Filing fee	Filing fee	\$40	\$40	\$50	\$50



The 1998 increases went to the Court Equity Fund, *infra*. A motion fee of \$20 was required if the controversy exceeded \$10,000; \$10 went to the local funding unit and \$10 went to the State Court Fund. In 2003, the motion fee was required of motions in all cases.

The 2003 increases went to the Civil Filing Fee Fund, *infra*, which was established at the same time. The Civil Filing Fee Fund distributes the monies to the State Court Fund, the Court Equity Fund, the Judicial Technology Improvement Fund, the Community Dispute Resolution Fund, the Judges Retirement System, the Legislative Retirement Fund, and to the State General Fund. Local units of government and the state received additional money with the increases in the fees. The filing fees were to revert to the prior levels in 2005.

In 2005, the Legislature provided that not less than \$5 shall be used by the district funding unit to fund a drug treatment court if one is planned, established, or operated in that judicial district.

In 2016, additional filing fees were added to fund the electronic filing system, which is being implemented currently.

State Court Administrative Office Funds

Several funds have been established in the State Court Administrative Office over the years to distribute the monies collected in the circuit, probate, and district courts.

State Court Fund

The State Court Fund was established in 1993 for the operational expenses of trial courts and indigent civil legal assistance. After 2003:

- the first \$1,600,000 plus 76% of the balance of these revenues is for the Court Equity Fund,
- 23% of the balance for indigent civil legal assistance, and
- the remaining 1% for to the State Court Administrative Office for oversight, data collection, and court management assistance.

The funds for the State Court Fund come from the Civil Filing Fee Fund, motion fees, the Justice System Fund, and the minimum costs in misdemeanors.

The State Court Fund replaced statutory language added by the bill that created the 36th District Court, which called for the state to gradually assume funding of all trial court operational expenses with full state funding to have been attained by fiscal year 1988 – 89. The intent of the State Court Fund was to instead promise that the Legislature would fund at least 31.5 percent of all outstate trial court operational expenses for the counties commencing with fiscal year 1993 – 94. Previously, only Wayne County and the city of Detroit received funds for the operational expenses of the trial courts.

Court Equity Fund

The Court Equity Fund was created in 1996. It receives funds from the State Court Fund, *supra*, the Justice System Fund, *infra*, excess court fees from the Judges Retirement Fund, and from the State General Fund. The Court Equity Fund sends the funds to the county funding units and to the city of Detroit for the operational expenses of the court but not to the cities with third-class district courts.

The bill that created the Court Equity Fund also merged the Recorders Court and the Third Circuit (Wayne County). It also changed the salary tie-bar for the salaries of the judges and created the Trial Court Assessment Commission to study the relative complexity of the various types of cases. The bill also repealed the State Judicial Council. The employees of the 36th District were transferred to Detroit. Wayne County and the city of Detroit received court equity funds to offset the cost. The other 82 counties also received court equity funds.

Justice System Fund

In 2003, in the midst of a severe economic downturn and severe budget strains in local budgets and the state budget, the Justice System Fund was created and funded by the \$40 minimum costs for civil infractions and the minimum costs for misdemeanors and felonies.

The Justice System Fund distributes the monies collected to the funds previously provided for:

- the Secondary Road Patrol and Training Fund (\$10 for each civil infraction),
- the Highway Safety Fund (at first, 24.7% and now 23.66% of the balance),
- the jail reimbursement program (at first 13%, and now 11.84% of the balance),
- the Michigan Justice Training Fund (at first 13% and now 11.84% of the balance), and
- the legislative retirement system (at first, 1.2% and now 1.1% of the balance).

With the 2003 amendments, the Justice System Fund also distributed money to new activities:

- the Drug Treatment Court Fund that was created at the same time as the Justice System Fund (at first, 2.35% and now, 2.73% of the balance)
- the state forensic laboratory fund (at first, 3.9% and now, 5.35% of the balance)
- the State Court Fund (at first, 14.3% and now, 12.69% of the balance)
- the Court Equity Fund (at first, 25.5% and now, 24.33% of the balance)
- the state treasurer for monitoring of collection and distribution (at first, 1% and now, .98% of the balance, and
- the State Court Administrative Office for management assistance and audit (at first, 1% and now, .98% of the balance).

In 2009, the percentages that each entity received were adjusted slightly as noted above and additional recipients were added:

- the Sexual Assault Victims' Medical Forensic Intervention and Treatment Fund (2.65% of the balance), and
- the Children's Advocacy Center Fund (1.85% of the balance)

Civil Filing Fee Fund

In 2003, the Civil Filing Fee Fund was created and receives funds from all filing fees in general civil, small claims, and summary proceedings and then distributes the money according to the following formula.

- a. To the State Court Fund created in section 151a (48.5% of the fund balance);
- b. To the Court equity Fund created in section 151b (8.2% of the fund balance);
- c. To the Judicial Technology Improvement Fund created in section 175 (11.1% of the fund balance);
- d. To the Community Dispute Resolution Fund created by the community dispute resolution act (5.2% of the fund balance);
- e. To the executive secretary of the Michigan Judges Retirement System created by the judges retirement act of 1992 (24% of the fund balance);
- f. To the secretary of the legislative retirement system for deposit with the state treasurer in the retirement fund created by the Michigan legislative retirement system act (1.5% of the fund balance); and
- g. To the State General Fund (1.5% of the fund balance).

Juror Compensation Fund

In 2003, the Juror Compensation Fund was created. It receives its funds from \$10 of the \$50 jury demand fee paid in district courts and from \$25 of the \$85 jury demand fee in circuit court. The Juror Compensation Fund also receives \$15 of the \$45 driver license reinstatement fee paid to reinstate a drivers license after a suspension for failure to appear in court for a traffic misdemeanor or failure to comply with judgment for a civil infraction. The fund can be used to enter into a contract with a jury management software vendor to provide software and ongoing support and maintenance to all state trial courts. The fund also provides for a position in the State Court Administrative Office to provide technical assistance. The balance is sent to the court funding units pursuant to a formula established in the statute.



Drug Treatment Court Fund

In 2003, the Drug Treatment Court Fund was created at the same time as the Justice System Fund and it receives 2.35% of the balance of the funds available after the disbursement to the secondary road patrol. This fund is for the administration and awarding of grants for drug treatment courts throughout the state.

Judicial Technology Improvement Fund

The Judicial Technology Improvement Fund was created to develop and support a statewide judicial information system, develop a statewide telecommunications infrastructure to integrate criminal justice information systems, and to pursue technology innovations that will enhance public service and access to local trial courts.

Judicial Compensation

Judicial salaries and retirement plans have been discussed frequently over the past 50 years.

Judicial Salaries

In 1969, the district court judges were paid \$18,000 by the state and the local funding unit could supplement that salary up to \$9,500 per year for a total maximum salary of \$27,500. In 1971, the state salary increased to \$19,500 and the local funding unit could supplement that salary up to \$12,500 for a total maximum salary of \$32,000 per year.

In 1976, the state salary of a district court judge was set at 90% of the state salary of a circuit judge and the local funding unit could pay an additional \$12,500. This was passed under the leadership of Judge Don Goodwillie who formed very good relationships with the leadership of the Legislature and was very effective in advocating for the district court.

In 1978, the state salary of a district court judge was set at 90% of the state salary of a circuit judge and the local funding unit could pay an additional amount of up to 60% of the annual salary paid by the state for a circuit judge.

In 1981, when the 36th District Court was created, the state salary of a district court judge was set at 90% of the state salary of a circuit court judge and the local funding unit could pay an additional amount so that the maximum salary of a district court judge could be up to 88% of the annual salary of a Supreme Court justice. Court of Appeals judges received 96% of the annual salary of a Supreme Court justice, circuit court judges could receive up to 92% of the annual salary of a Supreme Court justice, and probate judges (like the district court judges) could receive up to 88% of the annual salary of a Supreme Court justice. This was the beginning of the salary tie-bar.

Starting in 1981, the state agreed to pay the local funding unit a salary standardization payment of 20% of the difference between the state salary and the maximum salary allowed provided that the local funding unit paid that much to the judge and the judge's total salary, including cost-of-living allowances did not exceed 88% of the salary of a Supreme Court justice. The judges who were paid less than that amount received a pay increase as a result.

In 1982, the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, legislators, and judges were asked to give up one week of salary to help the state budget. About 30% of the judges voluntarily gave up one week of salary.

In 1988, the Court of Appeals ruled that longevity was a fringe benefit rather than salary so that a judge could receive the maximum salary plus longevity.

In the 1980s, the Judicial Salary Standardization Payment (JSSP) increased gradually and the local funding units were required to pass through to the judges' salary any increase in the JSSP until the judge's total salary was 88% of Supreme Court justice's salary. Eventually, the state reimbursed the local funding unit 100% of the difference between the state salary and 88% of the Supreme Court justice's salary and so all district court judges in the state were paid the same amount.

In 1988, the Supreme Court salary was set at \$100,000. District court judges received 88% of the salary of the Supreme Court justice, \$88,000. At the time, United States District Court judges received a salary of \$89,500.

In 1996, the Legislature changed the salary tie-bar with the Supreme Court for district court judges to 83% of the Supreme Court salary while the salary tie-bar for circuit and probate judges was changed to 85%. Later, in 1996, in the bill that created the family division in the circuit court, the tie-bar for district court judges was changed to 84%. The salary for district court judges was frozen at \$104,507 until the salary of a justice of a supreme court exceeded \$124,413. The district court judges did not receive a pay increase from 1996 until 1998 when 84% of Supreme Court salary exceeded the salary that the district court judges had been receiving in 1997 when the salary tie-bar was 88%.

The State Officers Compensation Commission (SOCC) increased the Supreme Court salary by 13.6% on January 1, 2001, and 2.9% on January 1, 2002. As a result, the salary of the district court judges rose by the same percentages to \$138,272. The Supreme Court has not received a raise since then from SOCC. As a result, the salaries of district court judges were frozen for almost 15 years until October 2016 when the judges were tie-barred to the non-exclusively represented employees classified as executives and administrators.

As of the summer of 2018, district court judges receive \$98,120.36 from the state of Michigan and \$45,724 from the local funding unit for a total salary of \$143,844.36.

Retirement

Another long running issue in MDJA has been to enhance the retirement benefits for district court judges. In 1969, district court judges became eligible to join the Judges Retirement System when the district court was created.

The Judges Retirement Act provided a defined benefit plan:

- If the judge had served 12 years and attained the age of 60, the judge could retire on 50% of the state salary;
- If the judge had served 16 years or had served 25 years, the judge could retire at 60% of the state salary; or
- If the judge was 55 and had served 18 years, the judge could retire at 60% of the state salary.

- A judge with 8 years of service who was disabled could also draw disability benefits.

In 1980, the judges were allowed to convert \$2,250 of the Judicial Salary Standardization Payment (JSSP) to the state pension for the purpose of calculating the benefits.

In 1982, the judges were allowed to convert 40% of the JSSP to the state pension for the purpose of calculating the benefits.

- The judges who made this conversion were required to pay 7% of the state salary plus 40% of the JSSP.
- The judges who did not convert the 40% of the JSSP were required to pay 3.5% of the state salary.
- The judges in the 36th District Court paid 3.5% on their total salary.

The discrepancy between the pensions of the 36th District Court judges being based on the total salary and the other judges whose pensions were based on the state salary and apportion of the supplement was upheld on challenge in the Michigan Supreme Court.

In the 1980s, MDJA and the other judicial associations sought to enhance the retirement benefits to provide for:

- a cost-of-living adjustment of 3% on the first \$20,000,
- health care benefits, and
- to allow a judge with 20 years of service to collect 68% of the state salary.

Senator John Engler offered support if the salary tie-bar for judges would be adjusted. The tie-bar for district court judges would have been changed to 85% of the Supreme Court justice's salary. The judges would not agree. In the lame duck Legislature in 1990, the House passed the bill. The Senate amended the bill by providing that the salary tie-bar for district court judges would be reduced to 75% of the Supreme Court justices' salary. The bill was defeated in the House after judges from around the state called their legislators to kill the bill that MDJA and the other judicial associations had worked on for the entire decade.



In 1997, the Judges Retirement Act and other state retirement acts were changed from the defined benefit plan. All judges who took office after March 31, 1997, were placed in a defined contribution plan, a 401K plan. The state would contribute 4% of the judge's salary and would match up to 3% of the judge's contribution. Judges who were in the original plan had the option to give up their rights under the original plan and join the defined contribution plan.

Jurisdiction and Procedural Issues

The criminal and civil jurisdiction of the district court has changed significantly over the past 50 years.

Civil Infractions

On August 1, 1979, most traffic tickets were decriminalized and became civil infractions. Prior to August 1979, traffic tickets were misdemeanors and a defendant could request a jury trial and the prosecution had the burden of proof of beyond a reasonable doubt. A defendant could contest a civil infraction by requesting a hearing before a judge or magistrate. The burden of proof was changed to a preponderance of evidence.

Jurisdictional Amounts

In 1969, the district court was not a court of record and the maximum civil jurisdiction was \$3,000. The filing fee for a civil case was \$10 if the amount was over \$100 and \$5 if the amount was less than \$100. The court also collected a \$2 judgment fee. In criminal cases, the court assessed a \$3 judgment fee.

In 1972, the jurisdictional amount for civil cases was raised to \$10,000 and in 1998, it was raised to \$25,000.

Article 1.I(20) of the 1963 Michigan Constitution provided that a jury may consist of less than 12 jurors in a court not of record." In 1972, the constitution was amended to provide that a jury may consist of less than 12 jurors in prosecutions for misdemeanors punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year." In 1973, after this amendment, the district courts became a court of record.

In 1968, the small claims jurisdiction was up to \$300. There has been pressure through the years to increase the jurisdiction of small claims court. The Legislature raised the jurisdictional amount to:

- \$600 in 1979
- \$1,000 in 1985
- \$1,500 in 1986
- \$1,750 in 1991
- \$3,000 in 2000
- \$5,000 in 2012
- \$5,500 in 2015,
- \$6,000 in 2018 and then
- \$6,500 in 2021 and then
- \$7,000 in 2024

Removal of Cases from Circuit Court

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the circuit courts were sending civil cases to what was referred to as "mediation" but was, in fact, case evaluation by panels of three attorneys. If the attorneys decided that the settlement value was less than the jurisdictional amount of the district courts (\$10,000), the case was then "remanded" to the district court pursuant to MCL 600.641 and MCR 4.003. Typically, the settlement amount was low because liability was an issue but the damages were still potentially very high. These "remand" cases often took weeks of testimony and many verdicts were returned in excess of \$100,000. They also caused numerous problems in the district courts, which had to set aside several days for a trial despite the daily business of the district courts. This was a problem in several counties but most notably in Wayne and Oakland counties. MDJA worked with the Michigan Judges Association and the Supreme Court to find a solution.

The Supreme Court amended the court rules in 1987 to read "The circuit court may order an action removed ...only if (a) it appears that the damages sustained, without regard to questions of liability, may be less than the jurisdictional limitation as to the amount in controversy applicable to the district court."

The Supreme Court amended the rule again in 1994 to not allow removal of cases for medical malpractice, products liability, domestic relations, Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights, and federal civil rights claims. The amendment also set up procedures to resolve disputes between courts.

The removal statute was repealed effective January 1, 1997, and MCR 4.003 was repealed effective July 1, 1997. The repeal of this statute and court rule ended the turmoil that had been created between some circuit and district courts. The repeal of the removal rule paved the way for the district court general civil jurisdiction to be increased to \$25,000.

Concurrent Jurisdiction

In 1996, the family division was created in circuit court with probate judges assigned to the family division. In 2000, many part-time probate court judges became full-time judges and were expected to assist the district courts in their counties.

In 1996, the district courts in Barry, Washtenaw, Berrien, Isabella, and Lake counties were merged with the circuit and probate courts to form county-wide trial courts as an experiment to unify all of the courts in a circuit into one trial court. Also, in 1996, the courts in Otsego, Kalkaska, and Crawford counties were merged into the 46th Trial Court. The 46th Trial Court in Otsego, Kalkaska, and Crawford counties reverted back to circuit, probate, and district courts in 2004.

In 2003, Supreme Court Administrative Order 2003-1 allowed plans of concurrent jurisdiction pursuant to MCL 600.401. As a result, district court judges have been taking on some of the duties and powers of circuit and probate judges in other counties. Some district court judges have been assigned as the chief judge of the consolidated court. These changes fundamentally change the role of the district court and the district court judges.

Changes in Criminal Law

As society changes and the Legislature changes, there have been several changes in the criminal law in the past 50 years that have affected the district court.

Code of Criminal Procedure

In 1981, the Code of Criminal Procedure was updated to delete all references to justices of the peace and the procedures used by the justices of the peace. This major effort was led by Judge John Hammond of the 5th District Court, Jerold Israel (Executive Director of the Michigan Law Revision Commission), and Bruce Timmons, who drafted the bill adopted by the Legislature. This is one of many bills affecting the district court on which Bruce Timmons collaborated with MDJA.

Drunk Driving

In 1969, driving under the influence of liquor was punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a minimum fine of \$50 with a maximum fine of \$100 and the Secretary of State would suspend the person's license. Driving while visibly impaired was punishable by up to 90 days in jail with a maximum fine of \$100. One was presumed to be driving under the influence of liquor if the breath test was .15% or more and presumed to not be driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor if the breath test was .05% or less. In between, there was no presumption either way but the breath test could be considered.

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) was formed in 1980. MADD pushed for tougher laws and more enforcement of drunk driving laws. Since then, there have been many significant changes to the drunk driving laws.

In 1981, the first of the major changes were made to the drunk driving law:

- Operating (rather than driving) under the influence of liquor or a controlled substance became illegal.
- Operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of .10% or more was presumed to be under the influence and was punishable by up to 90 days in jail with a minimum fine of \$100 and a maximum fine of \$500 (the presumption had been .15%).
- After a conviction for OUIL, the court could suspend a drivers license up to 2 years and grant a restricted license to drive to and from residence and employment, in the course of employment, to and from and alcohol training program.



- Operating with a blood alcohol level of .07 to .10 was presumed visibly impaired and was punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a fine of up to \$300.

In 1983, the Legislature made more major changes in the drunk driving laws:

- A new offense of operating with unlawful blood alcohol level of .10% (UBAL) was created.
- A person was presumed to be operating while visibly impaired if the breath test was .07% or more and presumed to be under the influence of intoxicating liquor if the test result was .10% or more.
- Courts were required to obtain a substance abuse assessment before sentencing.
- After conviction for UBAL or OUIL, the court could order the person's license suspended a minimum of six months and up to two years and could order that a restricted license be issued permitting the person to drive to and from work, in the course of employment, to and from alcohol or drug education program, and to school.
- After conviction for OWVI, the court could order the person's license suspended for a minimum of 90 days and up to one year and could order a restricted license.
- Police officers could administer a preliminary breath test.
- Provision for a court order to withdraw blood from someone who refuses a breath test. District court judges and magistrates have been on call 24/7 to sign search warrants since then.

In 1988, the district court judge could require that an ignition interlock device be installed when a restricted license was ordered.

In 1991, in order to qualify for a federal grant, the Legislature ordered that a pretrial in drunk driving cases be scheduled within 35 days after the person's arrest and that, unless there were circumstances out of the court's control listed in the statute, the drunk driving cases be adjudicated within 77 days after the person is arrested. The purpose behind this program was to shorten the period between arrest and any sanctions and rehabilitation that might be imposed.



The 46th District Court in Southfield participates in community outreach. Back: Hon. Stephen Cooper (MDJA President 1995), Court Officer James Caldwell. Front: Court Administrator Donna Beaudet, Hon. Susan Moiseev (MDJA President 2009), and "volunteers."

In 1994, operating a motor vehicle by someone less than 21 years of age with a blood alcohol level of .02% or more became punishable by a fine of up to \$250 and community service up to 45 days.

In 1999, UBAL, OUIL, and OWVI became punishable by up to 93 days in jail. Drunk driving with a child under the age of 16 became a separate offense with increased penalties. The district court judge could no longer order that a license be suspended and order that a restricted license be issued by the Secretary of State. Instead the Secretary of State suspended a person convicted of drunk driving without a court order and Secretary of State issued restricted licenses. The district court judge no longer had the discretion to determine the length of the suspension or when to issue a restricted license.

In 2003, UBAL was lowered to .08%. Michigan was one of the last states in the nation to reduce the level to .08%. If the level was not reduced to .08%, Michigan would have forfeited 10% of its federal funds for highways.

Prior to 2007, three convictions of drunk driving within 10 years was a felony. In 2007, three convictions of drunk driving in a lifetime was a felony.

In 2007, operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol level of .17% or more was added.

Problem-Solving Courts

Circuit Court Judge Bill Schma in Kalamazoo introduced the first drug court in Michigan in 1992. Judge Harvey Hoffman of the 56A District Court started the first sobriety court in Michigan in 1997. These courts have been proven to reduce recidivism. Michigan has become a leader in establishing problem-solving courts. As of January 1, 2018, there are 127 drug/sobriety courts, 25 veterans courts, and 33 mental health courts operating in Michigan.

Driving While License Suspended

In 1969, driving on a suspended license was punishable by a minimum of three days in jail and up to 90 days in jail and driving on a suspended license second offense was punishable by a minimum of five days in jail and up to one year.

In 1978, the jail terms were no longer mandatory if the suspension was for failure to answer a citation.

In 1992, the penalty for driving on a suspended was changed to up to 90 days in jail and a fine of up to \$100 if the license had been suspended for failure to comply with a judgment or failure to appear in court and up to 90 days in jail and a fine of up to \$500 if the license had been suspended for any other reason. Driving on a suspended license no longer had a mandatory jail term.

In 1999, an additional suspension for a like period of time was imposed by the Secretary of State if one was driving on a suspended license if the license had been revoked or pursuant to MCL 257.319a or MCL 257.319b. A 30-day suspension would be imposed on one's drivers license if the suspension was for an indefinite period such as a suspension for failure to appear in court or failure to comply with a judgment or failure to pay a driver responsibility fee.

In 2003, the state started imposing a Driver Responsibility Fee (DRF) of \$500 per year for two years on those convicted of Driving While License Suspended. If one did not pay a DRF, his or her license was suspended. The district courts were flooded with people driving on a suspended license because they could not afford paying the DRF and the



Chief Judge Richard Kuhn, Jr. (right) congratulates Damian Micol of Milford for graduating from Sobriety Court at Waterford's 51st District Court. (Photo credit: Oakland Press)

DRF suspensions piled up. The state decided to stop collecting the DRF as of October 1, 2018, and allow those who were suspended for failure to pay a DRF, to reinstate their drivers licenses.

Felony Threshold

The district court has jurisdiction over misdemeanors. In 1968, shoplifting offenses and malicious destruction of property were misdemeanors if the value was \$100 or less. If the value was over \$100, the offense would be a felony. In 1998, the Legislature determined that offenses with a value of \$200 or less would be a 93-day misdemeanor, offenses with more than \$200 but less than \$1,000 would be a one-year misdemeanor, and offenses more than \$1,000 would be a felony. In addition, a second offense of retail fraud more than \$200 with a prior retail fraud involving more than \$200 would be a felony. Not surprisingly, the number of misdemeanors in district court increased and the number of felonies decreased.

MDJA Initiatives

Preliminary Examination Reform

Mike Cox became the Attorney General in 2000. He sought to eliminate preliminary examinations because he claimed too many police officers were spending too much time at preliminary examinations. He argued that



the elimination of preliminary examinations would “put more cops on the street.” The elimination of preliminary examinations would have resulted in significantly less work for district court judges and more work for circuit judges. Nevertheless, MDJA strongly opposed this measure because it believed that preliminary examinations perform an important function of screening cases before they are filed in circuit court.

MDJA proposed that a probable cause hearing would be scheduled within 14 days of the arraignment and that a preliminary exam would be scheduled 5–7 days later. This, we argued, would allow sufficient time for the defense attorney to become familiar with the case so that the probable cause conference would be meaningful and allow enough time to subpoena the witnesses if a preliminary examination was necessary. The attorney general would not agree with this compromise although we had the support of the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar. The Michigan Sheriffs Association was concerned that the jails would become more crowded if the preliminary examination were not held within 14 days of arraignment. After extensive negotiations and working with the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan, and the Michigan Sheriffs Association, the probable cause conference and preliminary exams were instituted according to the schedule MDJA proposed.

Driver Responsibility Fee

In 2003, the state was in dire economic straits. The Legislature did not want to raise taxes nor cut spending any more than they did. As a solution, the Legislature created the Driver Responsibility Fee (DRF). Anyone who was convicted of a variety of offenses such as Operating While Intoxicated or Fail to Stop and Identify at the scene of a Property Damage Accident would have to pay a DRF of \$1,000 the first year and \$1,000 the second year in addition to the fines and costs imposed by the court. Anyone convicted of several other offenses such as Driving While License Suspended or Operating While Visibly Impaired had to pay \$500 per year for two years. Anyone convicted of other offenses such as no proof of insurance had to pay \$150 per year for two years. The person would have 12 months to pay the DRF. Failure to pay a DRF resulted in the suspension of one’s drivers license so the person could no longer legally drive to and from work.

District courts soon saw an increase in the number of people whose licenses were suspended for failure to pay the DRF. Recognizing the disaster, district court judges testified before the Legislature whenever a bill was introduced to amend or repeal the DRF.

In 2008, the person was allowed to set up a payment plan to pay the DRF within 24 months rather than 12 months. If the person did not comply with the payment plan, the person’s license was suspended and the person was not eligible for another reinstatement plan.

In 2010, the DRF was held in abeyance while one participated in a sobriety court program.

In 2011, the DRF for driving with expired license, no proof of insurance, and no insurance under the insurance code was eliminated and people could perform community service work in lieu of payments if the person’s drivers license had been suspended for failure to pay one of the DRF for one of these offenses.

In 2012, a person was given an opportunity to have three payment plans set up. This bill was introduced by Senator Dave Hildenbrand at the request of Judge Don Passenger of the 61st District Court.

In 2014, MDJA worked very closely with Rep. Joe Haveman, the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, to phase out the DRF. We helped him structure the legislation to phase out the DRF by assessing the DRF for only one year for any offenses committed after October 1, 2014, and not assessing the DRF for any offense committed after October 1, 2017. We gave him arguments to overcome concerns among fellow legislators. The bill passed the House 108-0 but the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee refused to set the bill for a hearing. MDJA helped craft a compromise package to phase out the DRF by 25% in 2015, 25% in 2016, and 25% in 2018, and not have the DRF assessed after October 1, 2019. Rep. Haveman was able to persuade the Senate leadership and the Governor to enact the compromise. Rep. Haveman said this bill would not have passed without the support of MDJA.

Although the DRF was being phased out, 318,000 Michiganders owed \$630,000,000 in driver responsibility fees in 2017. The Speaker of the House, Tom Leonard, proposed a bill to stop assessing the DRF

after October 1, 2018, and to stop the collection of the DRF as of the same date to allow those people to obtain a valid license. Speaker Leonard drafted a letter to the governor to persuade him to sign the legislation. The speaker's letter was signed by 216 district court judges. The governor signed the bill to eliminate the DRF as of October 1, 2018.

Indigent Defense

In 1972, the United States Supreme Court held that an indigent defendant was entitled to a court-appointed attorney in misdemeanor cases. In 2002, the United States Supreme Court held that an indigent defendant had a right to a court-appointed attorney even if the person had a suspended sentence or might be incarcerated for a probation violation.

District court judges over the years used various systems to appoint attorneys. Some courts had a contract with a group of attorneys who agreed to represent indigent defendants for a set price for the year while other courts appointed attorneys on an individual basis and paid per case or per time spent. The court paid the bills out of money provided by the local funding unit. Courts could seek partial reimbursement.

In June 2008, a very critical report was published discussing the state of indigent defense in Michigan. The report noted that judges handpicked defense attorneys, lawyers were appointed to cases for which they were unqualified, defenders met clients on the eve of trial and held non-confidential discussions in public courtroom corridors, attorneys failed to identify obvious conflicts of interest, defenders failed to properly prepare for trials or sentencings, attorneys violated their ethical canons to zealously advocate for clients, there was inadequate compensation for those appointed to defend the accused, and, there was a lack of sufficient time, training, investigators, experts, and resources to properly prepare a case in the face of a state court system that values the speed.

Various bills were introduced in the Legislature that concerned the Michigan Judges Association (MJA), the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM), and MDJA. MDJA worked with MJA, PAAM, and the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan to collaboratively draft legislation to address the issues

raised in the report. That bill established the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC), which is today working to dramatically change the delivery of criminal defense services to the indigent. Standards are being established for attorneys who wish to receive court appointments and the MIDC will appoint judges rather than local judges. Judge Tom Boyd of the 55th District Court sits on the commission.

Jail Overcrowding

In 1975, Michigan prisons had about 10,000 prisoners. Since then, the prisons expanded to a point where about 50,000 people were held in prison. County jails were also expanded. Some jails were overcrowded and under federal court order to limit the number of inmates.

District courts were unable to sentence misdemeanants to jail because of overcrowding in several counties, especially in Wayne. Prisoners were transported to jails all over the state that would accept prisoners from overcrowded jails.

Courts began to look to alternatives to incarceration. Starting in the 1980s, several courts began to use community service work or work crews as an alternative to incarceration. Judge John Fields of the 5th District Court started a community garden with the community service workers in his court. Community service programs have been established in most counties today.

Improving the Sound and Efficient Administration of Justice

Improving the sound and efficient administration of justice is the second stated goal of the MDJA. The association has done this in a number of ways.

Court Forms

One of the first committees of MDJA was the Rules and Forms Committee. In 1973, district court judges drafted small claims forms and claim and delivery forms for use in district courts.

In 1975, Judge Sandy Elden from Ann Arbor became the Forms Committee chairman. The Committee established plain English, 8 ½" by 11" standard forms for use



throughout the state. Although the State Bar objected to the letter-sized forms, the forms were adopted and are in wide use today. In the early 1980s, the State Court Administrative Office took over the responsibility of drafting and revising the forms. District court judges participate in work groups to revise the forms.

The Trial Court Services Division of the State Court Administrative Office is now responsible for developing, revising, approving, and distributing court forms. Part of this process includes review and recommendation by the Michigan Court Forms Committee. The Committee is comprised of eight work groups that include representatives from trial court associations, sections of the State Bar of Michigan, and state departments or agencies. The work groups meet annually to discuss requests for new forms and suggestions to revise existing forms received by the Trial Court Services Division.

Court Rules

The Rules Committee worked with the Supreme Court to establish District Court Rules. The District Court Rules were similar to the General Court Rules used in circuit court but there were many differences. In the 1980s, the Supreme Court drafted the Michigan Court Rules replacing the District Court Rules and the General Court Rules. MDJA reviewed each of the proposed rules and made comments to the Supreme Court before their adoption in 1985.

One major change for district court judges in 1985 with the adoption of the Michigan Court Rules was the provision in MCR 6.104(G), which requires that a judicial officer shall be available each day of the year to set bail for every person arrested for the commission of a felony. There was no such provision in the court rules before 1985.

Since the adoption of the General Court Rules, MDJA has reviewed every proposed court rule that would affect the district courts.

The guilty plea rule was a subject of significant work in the late 1980s. Defendants would often attack a prior conviction alleging that the district court judge had not complied with the guilty plea rule and the court of appeals issued several decisions on what was required for a valid guilty plea. MDJA proposed several amendments to the court rule.

Jury Instructions

As early as 1981, district court judges worked with the Standard Jury Instructions Committee to draft plain English jury instructions. Before the Standard Jury Instructions, each judge drafted his or her own instructions. Many of the instructions were based on what the appellate courts had deemed not incorrect although challenged by an aggrieved party. The standard instructions in civil and criminal cases have improved the jury system and made the life of a judge easier.

Encouraging the Highest Level of Judicial Competence

Encouraging among members of the association and the practicing bar, the highest level of judicial and legal competence is the third stated goal of the MDJA. The MDJA meets this goal in several ways.

Seminars

The Michigan Supreme Court provided an educational program to the new judges in December 1968. MDJA started providing educational programs as early as 1971. Until the Michigan Judicial Institute was formed in 1977, MDJA was one of the few sources of education for district court judges.

Each year, MDJA would meet and present educational programs along with the annual business meeting as required by statute. During the 1970s and 1980s, every 3rd year the district court judges would meet at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island or Grand Traverse Resort in Acme. Some of the annual meetings were held in conjunction with the circuit court judges and the probate court judges. The annual meeting in 1980 was scheduled to be held in northern Michigan but due to financial difficulties we met for one day at Long's Convention Center in Lansing. The Michigan Judicial Institute did not plan the educational sessions.

In 1977, the Michigan Judicial Institute was created and it provides seminars and other resources for district court judges and the court staff of the district court. Several district court judges have served as faculty of the Michigan Judicial Institute at many programs including the New Judges School held every other year.

Starting in 2003, MDJA began holding annual meetings without financial support from the Supreme Court. This was the year that the state budget was very strained and new fees were added to keep the courts and state government functioning.

The Michigan Judicial Institute now invites circuit, probate, and district court judges to attend seminars (in most years) in addition to presenting other programs during the year for judges and court staff.

Website and Discussion Groups

In the mid-1990s, MDJA created a website, which was not used much.

In 1997, Judge Don Passenger, of the 61st District Court, assisted Technology Chair Kirk Tabbey, of the 14A District Court, with the redesign and enhancement of the website as well as the addition of a listserv for MDJA member communication.

In 2011, MDJA replaced the listserv with a Google discussion group for district court judges to ask questions of each other about difficulties that a judge was facing in his or her court. Several judges typically respond with suggestions within 24 hours of a request for guidance.

In 2011, the Legislative Committee started using a discussion group on the website to share analyses of pending bills and to archive the analyses and comments.

In 2018, Judge Kirk Tabbey and Judge Mike Carpenter of the 75th District Court are recreating the website with multiple message boards, brief banks, resource links, a membership directory, MDJA program merchandise vendors, and an active, auto-event calendar for member events, Board tasks and auto-e-mail reminders.

Benchmarks

MDJA publishes a newsletter with items of interest to the membership to keep them abreast of what is happening statewide in the courts and in the Legislature.

Conclusion

Most cases in the court system are handled by the district court. This is truly the people's court. As Tom Downs and Leslie Butler pointed out in the 1968 *Michigan Bar Journal* article, when experience showed the need to amend the law establishing district courts, the Legislature made changes. The framers of the District Court Act could not have imagined the new technologies that we have available today and demands on the judiciary, just as we cannot imagine the technological developments and changes over the next 50 years. Our society has changed and the demands on the district courts have increased.

In the first 50 years the district court judges have worked to improve the court system and the communities in the state of Michigan with high levels of professionalism. The need for wise and fair judges remains the same today as it did in 1969. We look forward to the next 50 years.

About the Author

Judge William G. Kelly has served as the 62B District Court Judge since January 1, 1979. He succeeded his father, Kentwood Municipal Judge Joseph Kelly who served 1971 – 1979. Judge Kelly served as the president of the Michigan District Court Judges Association (MDJA) in 1989 and has served on several committees of the MDJA.

Author's Acknowledgement

I want to thank Lynn Seaks, Court Relations Program Coordinator, Michigan Supreme Court for her assistance in researching the public acts that changed the laws affecting the district courts.



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12. "A dissertation, description, account, statement, report, expose, summary, delineation, vignette, monograph and chronicle of the first 20 years of the recorded (and sometime unrecorded) epic history of the Michigan District Judges Association" Judge S. J. "Sandy" Elden
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Judges of the 55th District Court in Mason (l to r): Hon. Robert Bell (1973-78); Hon. Thomas Brennan, Jr. (1981-2004); Hon. Pamela McCabe (1988-2005); Hon. Rosemarie Aquilina (2005-08); Hon. Thomas Boyd (2005-present, MDJA President 2017); and Hon. Donald Allen, Jr. (2009-present).



Judges and staff of the 46th District Court in Southfield participate in a community drive to create care packages for troops overseas. Back row: Brian Smith, Renee Shelide, Deborah Rebh, Kathryn Eovaldi, Karen Smith, Paula Vibert, Shawntrane Williams, and Vicki Porter. Front row: Hon. Stephen Cooper (MDJA President 1995), Cristin Carlson, Donna Beaudet, Hon. Shelia Johnson (MDJA President 2018), and Hon. Susan Moiseev (MDJA President 2009).

MICHIGAN DISTRICT COURT: ORIGINAL JUDGES

Charles J. Golden

1st District Court Monroe County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1974

William J. Sanphilip

1st District Court Monroe County

- Judge William J. Sanphilip graduated from Monroe High School in 1940 and continued his education at the University of Detroit earning a Bachelor of Law degree in 1951.
- Sanphilip spent four years in the Army Air Corps during World War II serving from 1942–1946. He was a member of the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus, and St. Mary Church.
- Served 1969–1984
- Elected District Court Judge in 1968 and was one of the three original district judges that were elected at that time.
- Died in 2012

William L. Taft

1st District Court Monroe County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1988

Kenneth B. Glaser Jr.

2–1 District Court Lenawee County

- Served 1969–1970
- Completed his Undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan in 1949
- Received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1952, and was accepted in the Michigan's bar in 1953
- Also served as probate judge of Lenawee County Probate Court, 1971–77; circuit judge of 39th Judicial Circuit, 1977.

Yale Leland Kerby

2–1 District Court Lenawee County

- Judge Yale Leland Kerby was born in Corunna, Michigan on April 11, 1925. Graduated from Tecumseh High School in 1942. After high school he went on to attend Michigan State University, Ohio Northern University Law School, and obtained a doctorate in Jurisprudence.
- Was a practicing attorney from the time he graduated law school up until his death. In addition, he served as both a District Judge and Circuit Court Judge for the state of Michigan.
- Died in 2013

Kenneth W. Huggett

2–2 District Court Hillsdale County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972

James E. Carr

3–1 District Court Branch County

- Judge James E. Carr was born in Charlotte, Michigan on March 20, 1936. He graduated from Charlotte High School in 1954 and earned his Bachelor of Science degree at Michigan State University and Bachelor of Law degree from The University of Minnesota.
- In 1968, was the first District Judge in Branch County. He then practiced law for 30 years and in retirement was a visiting judge in Northern Michigan.
- Died in 2013

William L. McManus

3–2 District Court St. Joseph County

- Judge William L. McManus graduated from Constantine High School in 1949 and continued his education at Hiram College, graduating in 1953. After college he attended the University of Michigan with his Juris Doctorate Degree in Law in 1956.
- Worked for St. Joseph County for 40 years first as prosecutor and later as District Court Judge for 34 years, retiring in 2002.
- Died in 2011



Steg J. Lignell

4th District Court Cass County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1978
- Died in 2004

John T. Hammond

5th District Court Berrien County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1986
- Served Berrien County for 40 years as both a District Court and then Circuit Court judge
- Formerly served as a State Bar Representative Assembly member, a council member for the Michigan Judicial Conference, an executive board member of the Michigan Judges Association, chair of the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar, president of the Michigan District Judges Association, and a faculty advisor for the National Judicial College
- Author of numerous articles published in the “Michigan Bar Journal” on criminal law topics and the judiciary.

John Iwaniuk

5th District Court Berrien County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1980
- Previous attorney in Berrien County.

Paul Pollard

5th District Court Berrien County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1973
- Previous attorney in Berrien County.

Harry A. Laity

5th District Court Berrien County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972
- Defeated Quentin Fulcher, chief assistant County prosecutor, by an edge of 168 votes, 3,719 to 3,551

Donald M. Goodwillie, Jr.

7th District Court Van Buren County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1982

Luther I. Daines

7th District Court Van Buren County

- Born September 6, 1914, in Kalamazoo.
- Graduate of Paw Paw High School Class of 1934, attended Western Michigan University and was a graduate of Detroit College of Law in 1947.
- Veteran of World War II serving in the U.S. Army.
- Served as chairman of the Van Buren County Red Cross
- Served as Van Buren County prosecuting attorney, 7th District Court judge in Van Buren County, and state-appointed District and Circuit Court Judge throughout the state.
- Died in 2001

Charles A. Pratt

8th District Court Kalamazoo County

- Served on the bench from 1969–1980
- Retired 1981
- Died in 1989

Peter M. Westra

8th District Court Kalamazoo County

- Graduate of Calvin College and the University of Michigan Law School. Was a practicing attorney for many years.
- Served as a Justice of the Peace and was an 8th District Judge from 1969 until his retirement in 1981.
- Died in 1986

Richard A. Enslin9–1 District Court Kalamazoo County
City of Kalamazoo

- Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School in 1949.
- In 1999, the Kalamazoo Gazette named Judge Enslin Person of the Century in the field of law.
- As an attorney in 1971, represented the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of NAACP in a class-action lawsuit that led to court-ordered busing to desegregate Kalamazoo Public Schools, likely the highest-profile lawsuit in the community in the 1970s.

- United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Southern Division. Presided over the U.S. District Court in Kalamazoo from 1979 until 2005. Appointed to Federal Court by Jimmy Carter in 1979.
- Chief Judge of the Western District of Michigan from 1995 to 2001.
- Retired in 2009 and died in 2015

Patrick H. McCauley

9–1 District Court Kalamazoo County
City of Kalamazoo

- Graduated from University of Michigan Law School in 1954
- After working as a lawyer/partner in general law practices, he became District Judge of the 9th District Court of Kalamazoo followed by a Circuit Court appointment in the same district.
- He was assigned by the Michigan Supreme Court as a visiting judge throughout Michigan for 15 years.
- Died in 2012

Clark M. Olmsted

9–1 District Court City of Kalamazoo

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1980
- Died in 1993

Kenneth A. Fricke

9–2 District Court City of Portage

- Served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during the war. Attended University of Michigan law school afterward
- In 1964, he became the first municipal judge of Portage and in 1969 became Portage's District Court judge, a post he held until his retirement in 1990.
- Died in 2010

F. Jack Neller

10th District Court Calhoun County

- Educated Albion College and Tulane University
- Captain, Office of Strategic Services 1942–46.

- Member of the Michigan State House of Representatives from Calhoun County 2nd District, 1939–42; Calhoun County Prosecuting Attorney, 1953–56; Candidate for Circuit Judge, Michigan 37th Circuit, 1959/74.
- Died in 1987

Paul Nicolich

10th District Court Calhoun County

- Took oath in 1976.
- Elected to 6 year term
- Died in 1990

John W. Bothwell

11th District Court Calhoun County
City of Battle Creek

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1982
- Previously voted Most Qualified candidate by the Calhoun County Bar Association

William Burke

11th District Court Calhoun County
City of Battle Creek

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1975
- Died in 1995

Lysle G. Hall

12th District Court Jackson County

- Received a Juris Doctorate degree graduating with honors in 1958. Was President of the Michigan Justice of Peace Association from 1965–1968.
- 1968 elected to the newly created District Court where he served for 36 years.
- 1980 served as president of the Michigan District Judges Association, as well as the president of the Judicial Counsel of the State Bar of Michigan.
- Served as the Association's Legislative Chair for ten years and was instrumental in a complete revision of Michigan's drunk driving law
- After his retirement, Hall started the Jackson Legal law firm and continued working as an attorney until his health confined him to a wheelchair in 2012.
- Died in 2014



David C. McGarvey

12th District Court Jackson County

- Elected to the bench in 1968. Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1975
- Served for one term before he resigned to return to private practice in 1976.
- Died in 1995.

Robert Crary Jr.13th District Court: 1969–1985,
12th District Court: 1986–1990 City of Jackson

- Assumed the District Court bench January 1, 1969 and served until his retirement December 31, 1990.
- Elected by the people of the city of Jackson to the 13th District Court in 1968 along with Judge Theodore Smith.
- Died in 1995

Joseph A. McCollom

13th District Court: 1969–1975 City of Jackson

- Appointed to the bench in 1969 by Republican Governor William Milliken to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of the Honorable Michael Baughman.
- Served until December 31, 1976.
- Defeated in the general election of 1976 by James M. Justin.

Patrick J. Conlin

14th District Court Washtenaw County

- Succeeded by son, Patrick J. Conlin, Jr., who was elected to C22 in 2015 and is a current judge.
- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972

Edward D. Deake

14th District Court Washtenaw County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972
- Born 1921 in Ypsilanti, Michigan
- Died in 2000

Henry D. Arkison

14th District Court Washtenaw County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1978
- Resided in Ypsilanti
- Died in 1996

S. J. Elden

15th District Court City of Ann Arbor

- Presided over thousands of cases: murders, robberies, drug busts and many cases involving University of Michigan students in the turbulent late '60s and early '70s.
- Earned his law degree from Wayne State University on the G.I. Bill
- Sat on the bench in Ann Arbor for 26 years, from 1967 to 1993
- Died in 2015

Pieter G. V. Thomassen

15th District Court City of Ann Arbor

- Earned his bachelor's and juris doctor degrees at the University of Michigan
- Served 26 years as a District Judge in Ann Arbor
- Died in 2016

James R. McCann

16th District Court City of Livonia

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1994
- Succeeded by his daughter, Kathleen McCann, who is the chief judge of 16th District Court in Livonia.
- James R. McCann courthouse named after him for being the 16th District Court's first judge.

James E. Mies

16th District Court City of Livonia

- Attended the University of Detroit and graduated from the University Of Detroit School Of Law in 1951.
- In 1968 elected to 16th District Court.
- In 1981, appointed to Wayne County Circuit Court.



*The late Hon. James E. Mies (MDJA President 1974)
16th District Court City of Livonia*

- Served as MDJA President in 1974
- Died in 2009

Robert F. Brang

17th District Court Township of Redford

- Served for about 20 years from 1969–1989
- Father of township Treasurer Robert F. Brang Jr., and the grandfather of Diana Brang Schroeder, a member of the township Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Died in 2008

John M. Dillon

17th District Court Township of Redford

- Received his law degree from the University of Detroit in 1947
- Ran for Justice of the Peace in 1963 and was elected.
- Top vote getter among seven candidates and was reelected to the bench six times.
- Died in 2013

Michael W. Bradley

18th District Court City of Westland

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1976
- Died in 2018

Thomas G. Smith

18th District Court City of Westland

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1992

Richard D. Dunn

20th District Court Dearborn Heights

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1974
- Served as a Municipal Judge

George E. Wicklund

20th District Court Dearborn Heights

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1973
- 1951–1959 Justice of the Peace
- Died in 1982

Richard L. Hammer

21st District Court Wayne County Garden City

- Succeeded by his son Richard L. Hammer, Jr. who is a current judge. His son is the Chief Judge for the 21st District Court.
- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1990

John C. Seiler

29th District Court City of Wayne

- Served on the District Court Bench from 1969–1985

Gerald A. McNally

33rd District Court

- Graduated from Detroit College of Law–1959
- Worked in Detroit Law firm McNally and McNally, P.C. with father and brother: 1959–1965
- Elected Municipal Judge, City of Trenton, in 1965; served in that capacity until the end of 1968
- In private practice in the City of Trenton: 1965–1968
- Elected first District Judge of the 33rd District Court in 1968; was reelected in 1972, 1978, and 1984



- Served as 33rd District Court Judge until he died on May 4, 1986
- Retired Major, United States Marine Corps

James Stone

34th District Court Wayne County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1990
- Died in 2002

Dunbar Davis

35th District Court Plymouth

- Was Plymouth's Municipal Judge, prior to the creation of the District Court system.
- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1984

Don Binkowski

37th District Court Macomb County

- Bachelor of Arts Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1947–1951. Juris Doctor, Wayne State University, Detroit, 1955–1956.
- District judge, 1969–1987
- Claims supervisor United States Government, Detroit, 1951–1955
- Assistant attorney general, Michigan, 1957–1959
- United States District Court, (Eastern District), Michigan 1957, United States Court Appeals (6th circuit) 1958.

Verne C. Boewe

37th District Court Macomb County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1976
- Served 1961–1976 Warren Municipal

Robert J. Chrzanowski

37th District Court Macomb County

- Daughter Susan Chrzanowski and niece Mary Chrzanowski were both former judges at D37.
- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1992

Roy N. Gruenburg

37th District Court Macomb County

- Daughter is a former judge.
- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1976

Raymond R. Cashen

39th District Court Macomb County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1974
- Ran for Circuit Court bench in 1974.

Mary E. McDevitt

39th District Court Macomb County

- Practiced law for 12 years.
- Served as a District Judge for the 39th District Court, which covers Roseville and Fraser for 28 years and a Municipal Judge for Roseville for 10 years.
- First woman judge in Macomb County and was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.
- Founding member and past president of the former Women Lawyers Association of Macomb County.
- Died in 2007

Gordon E. Havey

41st District Court Sterling Heights

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1983

Hunter D. Stair

41st District Court Sterling Heights

- Served on the District Court bench from 1971–1979
- Died in 1979

Richard D. McLean

42nd District Court Macomb County

- Served for 33 years on the District Court bench from 1969–2002

Elmer E. Hartwig

44th District Court City of Royal Oak

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972
- Retired 1972, term expired 1974.

John B. Osgood

44th District Court City of Royal Oak

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1980
- Daughter Elizabeth Hines is a judge and former prosecutor
- Died in 1980

S. James Clarkson

46th District Court
Cities of Southfield and Lathrup Village

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1978
- Served 8 years as Oakland County Board of Supervisors
- Served 4 terms as mayor of Southfield.
- Died in 2008

Clarence A. Reid, Jr.

46th District Court
Cities of Southfield and Lathrup Village

- On April 28, 1958, Southfield became a city and Reid was elected as the first municipal judge.
- In 1957, elected justice of the peace for Southfield Township and held court on Southfield Township Road near Ten Mile Road in the basement of Nelson Realty

Michael J. Hand

47th District Court City of Farmington

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1989
- Retired in 1989

Alice L. Gilbert

48th District Court
Cities of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor, and Orchard Lake Village

- Circuit judge in Michigan 6th Circuit, 1977–2001; defeated, 1966;
- Candidate for justice of Michigan Supreme Court, 1978

Carl F. Ingraham

48th District Court Cities of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor, & Orchard Lake Village

- Defeated in primary
- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1984

Maurice Finnegan

50th District Court City of Pontiac

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1973
- Cecil McCallum
- 50th District Court City of Pontiac
- Nominated 1966
- Term ended in 1974, when he retired.

James R. Stelt

50th District Court Pontiac City of Pontiac

- Attended night school at the Detroit College of Law, where he graduated in 1964.
- Worked as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Probate Registrar of Oakland County before being elected for District Court in 1968.
- Died in 2015

Kenneth H. Hempstead

51st District Court Township of Waterford

- Former Waterford Township Trustee and was the Founder and President of Community Programs
- Served 33 years as a Waterford District Court Judge from 1969–2002
- Died in 2010

Martin L. Boyle

52–1 District Court County of Oakland

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1988

Gerald E. McNally

52–2 District Court City of Rochester

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–2002
- Graduated from University of Michigan in 1963
- Served in the U.S. Air Force
- Former attorney for city of Dearborn and Oakland



Robert L. Shipper

52–3 District Court City of Rochester

- Elected in 1968 to serve as the first judge of the 52nd District Court, 3rd Division
- In 1974, the Michigan State Legislature and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners authorized a second judgeship.

Bert M. Hensick

53rd District Court Livingston County

- Attended Michigan State University and Detroit College of Law
- Served as Livingston County Court Circuit Judge and District Court Judge from 1968 until 1986.
- Died in 2012

James H. Edgar

55th District Court Ingham County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972

R. William Reid

55th District Court Ingham County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1980
- Succeeded by Thomas E. Brennan, Jr.

Kenneth A. Hansen

56th District Court Counties of Barry and Eaton

- Served on the District Court bench from 1968–1996
- Died in 2015

Horace K. Powers

56th District Court Counties of Barry and Eaton

- Served on the District Court bench 1969–1973
- Died in 1971

Elizabeth Ramsey

57th District Court Allegan County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972.
- Died in 1980

John Galien, Jr.

58th District Court County of Ottawa

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1992

Jacob Ponstein

58th District Court County of Ottawa

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1983
- Died in 1984

Gerald J. Van Wyke

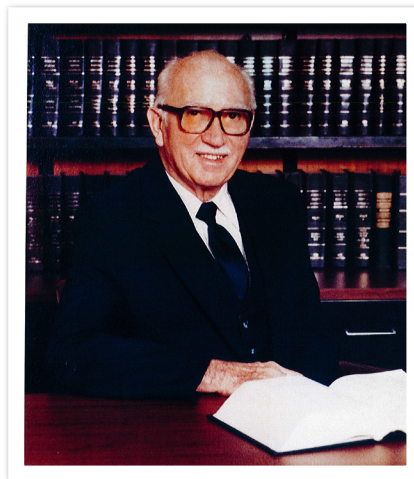
58th District Court County of Ottawa

- Did estate planning work for Holland Christian Schools.
- Graduated from Grand Rapids Christian High School and received his undergraduate college education at Calvin College.
- Died in 2010

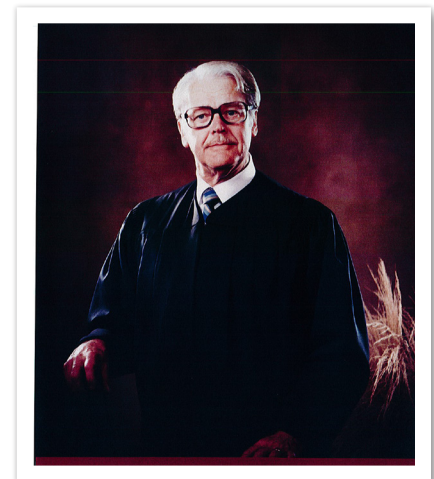
Edward Campbell Farmer, Jr.

59th District Court Muskegon

- Was a U.S. Marines veteran who served during WWII, where he was the last survivor of the pivotal battles of Guadalcanal in September 1942. He received three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and Silver Star, among other honors, for his service.
- Served as a trial attorney for 18 years and a District Court Judge for 24 years
- Died in 2015



*Hon. Jacob Ponstein
58th District Court County of Ottawa*



*Hon. Gerald J. Van Wyke
58th District Court County of Ottawa*

Charles Edward Silky

59th District Court Muskegon

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1973

Harold J. Steendam

59th District Court Muskegon

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1977
- In the 1970s, D59 changed from Muskegon County to Kent County

William F. Hanna

60th District Court Muskegon

- Earned his bachelor's degree from Western Michigan College in 1941, and then went on the University of Michigan's Law School. Also attended University of Akron (Ohio), University of Kansas, and Harvard University.
- Was as an attorney, a District Court judge in Muskegon and prosecuting attorney in Oceana County until retiring in 1983
- Died in 2009

Ralph Rose, Jr.

60th District Court Muskegon

- Received his juris doctorate in 1951 from the University of Detroit Law School
- Elected a District Court Judge in 1968
- Joined by his son Jim to form Rose & Rose Attorneys in Montague, MI.
- Died in 2015

Louis Simhauser

61st District Court City of Grand Rapids

- Began as assistant prosecuting attorney, private practice for six years.
- Was elected Municipal Court of Grand Rapids in 1956 and 61st District Court Judge until retirement in 1985.
- Died in 2007



The late Hon. J. Robert Smolenski (center), of the 61st District Court in Grand Rapids; his late son, Hon. Michael R. Smolenski, of 61st District Court, Kent County Circuit Court and Michigan Court of Appeals; and his daughter, Hon. Sara J. Smolenski (MDJA President 1999), of the 63rd District Court in Grand Rapids.

J. Robert Smolenski

61st District Court City of Grand Rapids

- Daughter Sara Smolenski, judge in the 63rd District
- Received his undergraduate and law degrees from University of Michigan.
- From 1969 to 1984, presided first at Police Court, which later became the 61st District Court
- Died in 2010

Robert Verdier

61st District Court City of Grand Rapids

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972
- Died in 1972

Paul A. Wright

61st District Court City of Grand Rapids

- Received a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1938. Following law school went into private practice in Grand Rapids.
- During World War II served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy
- Served as a 61st District Court judge for 14 years until he retired in 1983.



- Died in 2009

Woodrow Yared

61st District Court City of Grand Rapids

- Served as chief judge of the Grand Rapids District Court for nine years
- In 1978, elected to the Kent County Circuit Court, served until 1987
- Died in 2004

Edward J. Kehoe, Jr.

63–1 District Court County of Kent

- Was a general practice lawyer as well as a District Judge in Rockford from 1970 to 1974.
- Born in Providence, RI
- Died in 2013

Joseph B. White

63–2 District Court County of Kent

- Attended the University of Michigan undergraduate and law school where he received his Bachelors of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees
- Appointment in 1963 as Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kent, a position he held until his election as judge of the 63rd District Court for the state of Michigan where he served as alternate chief judge until his retirement in 1996.
- Adjunct professor for the University of Michigan Extension Service.
- Died in 2016

Benjamin W. Franklin

64–1 District Court County of Montcalm

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1979

C. Ronald VanBuren

64–2 District Court County of Ionia

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1979
- Former prosecuting attorney three times.

J. David Sullivan

65–1 District Court County of Gratiot

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1971
- Died in 1971
- Former Alma Municipal Judge

Roland J. Duguay

65–2 District Court County of Clinton

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1973
- Died in 1973

Peter J. Marutiak

66th District Court County of Shiawassee

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1974
- Appointed Municipal Judge in 1955, District Court Judge in 1969 and Shiawassee County Circuit Court Judge in 1974.

Harry P. Newblatt

67–1 District Court County of Genesee
Cities of Flushing and Clio

- Brother Stewart A. Newblatt former judge. David J. Newblatt, son of Stewart, is a current judge.
- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1989

Luke Quinn

67–2 District Court City of Davison Genesee County

- Graduated from Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and later Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, graduating in 1964.
- District Court judge, and appointed as a Genesee County probate judge until his retirement in 1989.
- Died in 2012

William R. Evans

67–3 District Court City of Mt. Morris

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1996

Ernest J. Somers

67–4 District Court
Cities of Fenton, Grand Blanc and Swartz Creek

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1977
- Died in 1977

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Basil F. Baker

68th District Court City of Flint

- Candidate in primary for circuit judge in Michigan 7th Circuit, 1959
- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1980

Ollie B. Bivins, Jr.

68th District Court City of Flint

- Attended Fisk University and graduated from Boston University School of Law in 1953
- First black judge in two Genesee County courts
- Practiced law in Flint until he joined the prosecutor's office in 1965 as a trial attorney. There served as the county's chief trial attorney from 1966–68.

Albert P. Horrigan

68th District Court City of Flint

- Attended Sacred Heart Seminary and earned degrees in both theology and philosophy in 1959. Graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1962
- Served 24 years, retiring in 1992.
- Died in 2012

Walter P. Kuta

68th District Court City of Flint

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1983
- Retired 1985

Dale A. Riker

68th District Court City of Flint

- In 1985 became president of the National Circus Fan Club
- Elected to his position in 1968 and retired after 16 years in 1983. Later reappointed to his seat until 1986, after his successor was removed from the bench.
- Died in 2009

James M. Shaker

68th District Court City of Flint

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1986
- Died in 2008

Joseph P. Friske

69th District Court City of Saginaw

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1975

Glover Gage

69th District Court City of Saginaw

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1971
- Term expired 1975.
- Died in 1971

Joseph Lee Scorsone

69th District Court City of Saginaw

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1979
- Died in 1979

Harold W. Martin

70th District Court County of Saginaw

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1982

Bruce K. Scorsone

70th District Court County of Saginaw

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–2000

Maurice L. VanBenschoten

70th District Court County of Saginaw

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1980
- Retired in 1981

Richard F. Kern

71–1 District Court County of Tuscola

- Obtained his juris doctor from Wayne State University in 1955 and admitted to the bar in 1956.
- Practiced law with his father, Roland Kern, and created the firm Kern and Kern, a partnership that lasted from 1956 to 1969
- Elected District Judge in 1968



- Served as district judge for twenty-one years until retirement in 1990.
- Died in 2016

Michael C. Dionise

71–2 District Court County of Lapeer

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1990
- Died in 2000

Wilber V. Hamm

72nd District Court County of St. Clair

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1981
- Died in 1991

James M. Kelly

72nd District Court County of St. Clair

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1983
- Succeeded by Daniel J. Kelly

William V. Simpson

72nd District Court County of St. Clair

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1973
- Died in 1973

John Schubel

73–1 District Court County of Huron

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1989

Eugene E. Deegan

73–2 District Court County of Sanilac

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1978
- 1979 Served on assignments

Ira W. Butterfield

74th District Court County of Bay

- Served as an assistant to the city attorney and then in 1942 left to serve as a law clerk to the Michigan Supreme Court.
- 1956 elected County Prosecuting Attorney for Bay County, a position that he held for two years, from 1957 to 1958.

- 1968 elected to the newly created position of District Judge in the 74th District Court. He served from January 1, 1969 until 1978 when he resigned to accept Governor Milliken's appointment as Circuit Court judge for the 18th Judicial Circuit. He served here until his term expired January 1, 1981.
- Died in 1995

Arthur E. Higgs

74th District Court County of Bay

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1985
- Retired in 1985

Lyle M. McCormick

74th District Court County of Bay

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1970
- On bench 14 months before resignation.

Henry Hart

75th District Court Midland County

- Served as the Justice of the Peace from 1941 to 1947, the Municipal Judge from 1947–1969, and then the first District Judge in Midland from 1969–1982.
- Died in 2005

John Morris

75th District Court Midland County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1973
- Died in 1973

Douglas A. Dehn

76th District Court Isabella County

- Graduated from University of Michigan in 1949 with a Juris Doctor Law Degree.
- Served 10 years on the bench. Twice elected as prosecuting attorney.
- Died in 2013

George Worcester

77th District Court Mecosta and Osceola Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972

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John P. Riley

78th District Court Newaygo and Lake Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1978
- 1958 elected to Jackson Municipal Court
- 1997 elected in Special Election to Lake County Probate Court
- Retired 1978

Frederick G. Mather

79th District Court Oceana and Mason Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1978
- Died in 2012

Jon H. Ringelberg

80th District Court Clare and Gladwin Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1984

J. Richard Ernst

81st District Court Iosco and Arenac Counties

- Attended Yale University, A.B., 1960 University of Michigan, LL.B., 1963
- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–2002

Edwin S. Bartlett

82nd District Court
Alcona, Oscoda, and Ogemaw Counties

- University of Michigan, Literary Department, 1893–95, Law Department, LL.B., 1898
- Director Michigan Pressed Steel Co. Progressive.

Francis L. Walsh

83rd District Court
Roscommon and Crawford Counties

- Served 33 years from 1969–2002 on the District Court bench.

Frank H. Miltner

84th District Court Wexford and Missaukee Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1984
- 1978 reelected for 6 year term.
- Died in 1984

David L. Bailey

85th District Court Manistee and Benzie Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1970, resigned.

Harold E. Hunsberger

86th District Court
Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1975.
- Died in 1980

Daniel F. Walsh

87th District Court
Kalkaska, Antrim and Otsego Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972

Robert D. Mandenberg

88th District Court
Alpena and Montmorency Counties

- Graduated 1949 from Michigan State College and then entered University of Michigan law school, graduating in 1952.
- July 1967 appointed municipal judge for the city of Alpena, Alpena County, Michigan.
- Served as a District Court judge and one of his court cases made news even in Arizona
- Died in 2004

Philip S. Tschirhart

89th District Court
Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1984

Wayne Richard Smith

90th District Court Emmet and Charlevoix Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972

Nicholas James Lambros

91st District Court Chippewa County

- Son James P. Lambros current judge C50.
- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972



Robert A. Wood

92nd District Court Mackinac and Luce Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1990

Charles H. Stark

93rd District Court Schoolcraft and Alger Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1988
- Died in 2011

Dean J. Shipman

94th District Court Delta County

- Attended College of the Holy Cross, B.S. and University of Michigan Law School, J.D.
- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1985

Russell W. Bradley

95–1 District Court Menominee County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1984
- Retired 1984 election
- Died in 2003

V. Robert Payant

95–2 District Court Dickinson County

- B.S. Marquette University, 1954. Juris Doctor, Marquette University, 1956.
- Probate judge County of Dickinson, Iron Mountain, 1963–1968. 95th district judge state of Michigan, 1968–1977, 41st circuit judge, 1977–1982, State Court Administrator, 1985–1988.
- Associate dean National Judicial College, Reno, 1982–1985, dean, 1990–1994, president, 1994–1998, president emeritus, since 1999, member faculty, since 1973.

Stephen J. Catel

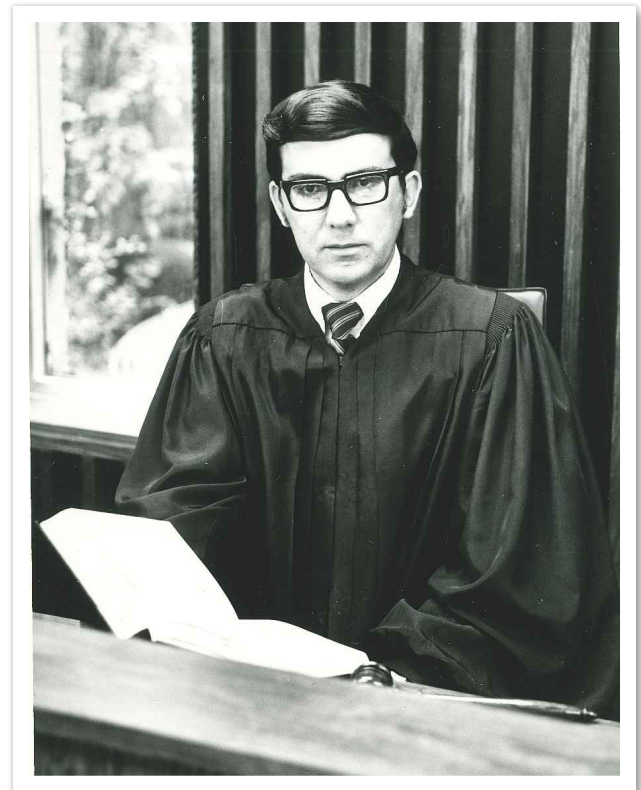
96th District Court Marquette County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1984
- Retired in 1984.

George E. Hill

96th District Court Marquette County

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1974



*Hon. Wayne Richard Smith
90th District Court Emmet and Charlevoix Counties*

William G. Konstenius

97th District Court Iron and Baraga Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1990

William S. Baird

98th District Court Ontonagon and Gogebic Counties

- Served as Bessemer City Attorney 1944–1956
- 27 years old when admitted to bar.
- Died in 1970.

Bert M. Heideman

99th District Court Houghton and Keweenaw Counties

- Served on the District Court bench from 1969–1972

Please note: Not all court or judge information could be verified.

MICHIGAN DISTRICT JUDGES: PAST AND PRESENT

Code: F=Former X=Deceased D=Current District C=Current Circuit P=Probate/District

FULL NAME	CODE	CURRENT COURT?	COURT	TOOK OFFICE	LEFT OFFICE
Honorable Charles J. Golden	X	Current Court	D01	1/1/1969	12/31/1974
Honorable William J. Sanphilip	X	Current Court	D01	1/1/1969	12/31/1984
Honorable William L. Taft	X	Current Court	D01	1/1/1969	12/31/1988
Honorable Mary Patricia Costello	X	Current Court	D01	1/1/1975	12/31/1998
Honorable Michael W. LaBeau	F	Current Court	D01	1/1/1985	12/31/1988
Honorable Terrence P. Bronson	D	Current Court	D01	1/1/1989	
Honorable Paul E. Braunlich	X	Current Court	D01	5/19/1989	12/31/2002
Honorable Jack Vitale	D	Current Court	D01	1/1/1999	
Honorable Mark S. Braunlich	C	Current Court	D01	1/1/2003	7/2/2014
Honorable Jarod M. Calkins	F	Current Court	D01	1/1/2015	6/1/2018
Honorable Kenneth B. Glaser, Jr.	X	Abolished Court	D02-1	1/1/1969	12/31/1970
Honorable Yale Leland Kerby	X	Abolished Court	D02-1	1/1/1969	12/31/1978
Honorable Ralph Kelly	X	Abolished Court	D02-1	1/1/1971	11/1/1976
Honorable John C. Timms	X	Abolished Court	D02-1	1/7/1977	11/8/1982
Honorable James E. Sheridan	X	Abolished Court	D02-1	1/1/1979	12/31/1998
Honorable Natalia M. Koselka	F	Abolished Court	D02-1	11/22/1982	12/31/1998
Honorable Kenneth W. Huggett	X	Abolished Court	D02-2	1/1/1969	12/31/1972
Honorable James D. Hayne	F	Abolished Court	D02-2	1/1/1973	12/31/1977
Honorable Donald L. Sanderson	F	Abolished Court	D02-2	2/21/1978	12/31/1998
Honorable Natalia M. Koselka	F	Current Court	D02A	1/1/1999	12/31/2010
Honorable James E. Sheridan	X	Current Court	D02A	1/1/1999	12/31/2014
Honorable Laura J. Schaedler	D	Current Court	D02A	1/1/2011	
Honorable Jonathan L. Poer	D	Current Court	D02A	1/1/2015	
Honorable Donald L. Sanderson	F	Current Court	D02B	1/1/1999	12/31/2014



*(l to r) Judges of the 3B District Court, County of St. Joseph:
Hon. William D. Welty;
Hon. William L. McManus; and
Hon. Jeffrey C. Middleton.*



Honorable Sara S. Lisznyai	D	Current Court	D02B	1/1/2015	
Honorable James E. Carr	X	Current Court	D03A	1/1/1969	2/11/1973
Honorable George E. Strathern, Jr.	X	Current Court	D03A	5/1/1973	12/31/1974
Honorable Earl Warren Bennett	F	Current Court	D03A	1/1/1975	7/24/1978
Honorable David T. Coyle	F	Current Court	D03A	1/1/1979	12/31/2008
Honorable Brent R. Weigle	D	Current Court	D03A	1/1/2009	
Honorable William L. McManus	X	Current Court	D03B	1/1/1969	12/31/2002
Honorable William D. Welty	F	Current Court	D03B	1/1/1991	12/31/2012
Honorable Jeffrey C. Middleton	D	Current Court	D03B	1/1/2003	
Honorable Robert Pattison	D	Current Court	D03B	1/1/2013	
Honorable Steg J. Lignell	X	Current Court	D04	1/1/1969	12/31/1978
Honorable Herman A. Saitz	F	Current Court	D04	1/1/1979	8/1/1979
Honorable Paul E. Deats	F	Current Court	D04	12/17/1979	12/31/2008
Honorable Stacey A. Rentfrow	D	Current Court	D04	1/1/2009	
Honorable John T. Hammond	F	Current Court	D05	1/1/1969	12/31/1986
Honorable John Iwaniuk	X	Current Court	D05	1/1/1969	6/1/1980
Honorable Harry A. Laity	X	Current Court	D05	1/1/1969	12/31/1972
Honorable Hugh W. Black	F	Current Court	D05	1/1/1973	7/14/1997
Honorable Leo K. Cook	X	Current Court	D05	1/1/1973	12/31/1984
Honorable Ronald J. Taylor	X	Current Court	D05	1/1/1975	12/31/1984
Honorable John N. Fields	F	Current Court	D05	1/1/1981	12/31/1994

Honorable David M. Peterson	F	Current Court	D05	1/1/1985	1/2/1999
Honorable Daniel R. Deja	F	Current Court	D05	1/7/1985	12/31/1998
Honorable Lynda A. Tolen	F	Current Court	D05	3/6/1987	8/1/2008
Honorable Paul L. Maloney	F	Current Court	D05	2/27/1995	12/2/1996
Honorable Dennis M. Wiley	D	Current Court	D05	12/9/1996	
Honorable Scott Schofield	C	Current Court	D05	8/29/1997	12/31/2014
Honorable Gary J. Bruce	D	Current Court	D05	1/1/1999	
Honorable Angela Pasula	C	Current Court	D05	2/22/1999	12/31/2012
Honorable Sterling R. Schrock	D	Current Court	D05	12/15/2008	
Honorable Arthur J. Cotter	D	Current Court	D05	5/31/2013	
Honorable Donna B. Howard	D	Current Court	D05	1/1/2015	
Honorable Donald M. Goodwillie, Jr.	F	Current Court	D07	1/1/1969	2/1/1982
Honorable Lewis R. Williams	F	Current Court	D07	1/1/1969	4/30/1969
Honorable Luther I. Daines	X	Current Court	D07	5/1/1969	10/1/1974
Honorable William C. Buhl	F	Current Court	D07	12/9/1974	12/31/1988
Honorable David C. Grier	F	Current Court	D07	4/5/1982	6/30/1996
Honorable Ward S. Hamlin, Jr.	F	Current Court	D07	2/27/1989	12/31/2002
Honorable Robert T. Hentchel	F	Current Court	D07	9/9/1996	12/31/2016
Honorable Arthur H. Clarke, III	D	Current Court	D07	1/1/2003	
Honorable Michael T. McKay	D	Current Court	D07	1/1/2017	
Honorable Charles A. Pratt	X	Current Court	D08	1/1/1969	12/31/1980
Honorable Peter M. Westra	X	Current Court	D08	1/1/1969	1/5/1981
Honorable Karl G. Erickson	X	Current Court	D08	1/1/1981	12/31/1992
Honorable Kenneth E. Long	F	Current Court	D08	4/6/1981	12/31/1996
Honorable Vincent C. Westra	D	Current Court	D08	1/1/1993	
Honorable Richard A. Santoni	D	Current Court	D08	1/1/1997	
Honorable Quinn E. Benson	F	Current Court	D08	1/2/2007	12/31/2008
Honorable Anne E. Blatchford	D	Current Court	D08	1/2/2007	
Honorable Paul J. Bridenstine	C	Current Court	D08	1/2/2007	2/8/2015



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Honorable Carol A. Husum	F	Current Court	D08	1/2/2007	2/28/2013
Honorable Robert C. Kropf	F	Current Court	D08	1/2/2007	6/3/2017
Honorable Julie K. Phillips	D	Current Court	D08	1/1/2009	
Honorable Christopher Haenicke	D	Current Court	D08	2/9/2015	
Honorable Kathleen P. Hemingway	D	Current Court	D08	6/12/2017	
Honorable Quinn E. Benson	F	Abolished Court	D08-1	1/1/1999	1/1/2007
Honorable James P. Coyle	X	Abolished Court	D08-1	1/1/1999	2/29/2000
Honorable Ann L. Hannon	F	Abolished Court	D08-1	1/1/1999	12/31/2004
Honorable Carol A. Husum	F	Abolished Court	D08-1	1/1/1999	1/1/2007
Honorable Paul J. Bridenstine	C	Abolished Court	D08-1	3/1/2000	1/1/2007
Honorable Anne E. Blatchford	D	Abolished Court	D08-1	1/1/2005	1/1/2007
Honorable Robert C. Kropf	F	Abolished Court	D08-2	1/1/1999	1/1/2007
Honorable Richard A. Santoni	D	Abolished Court	D08-3	1/1/1999	1/1/2007
Honorable Vincent C. Westra	D	Abolished Court	D08-3	1/1/1999	1/1/2007
Honorable Richard A. Enslin	X	Abolished Court	D09-1	1/1/1969	3/1/1970
Honorable Patrick H. McCauley	X	Abolished Court	D09-1	1/1/1969	11/1/1974
Honorable Clark M. Olmsted	X	Abolished Court	D09-1	1/1/1969	12/31/1980
Honorable Marjorie Lee Luna	X	Abolished Court	D09-1	3/5/1970	12/31/1974
Honorable John E. Fitzgerald	F	Abolished Court	D09-1	1/1/1975	1/1/1981
Honorable Donald E. James	X	Abolished Court	D09-1	1/1/1975	7/1/1994
Honorable Ann L. Hannon	F	Abolished Court	D09-1	1/1/1981	12/31/1998
Honorable James P. Coyle	X	Abolished Court	D09-1	2/2/1981	12/31/1998
Honorable Arvin L. Davis	X	Abolished Court	D09-1	2/1/1982	2/24/1989
Honorable Quinn E. Benson	F	Abolished Court	D09-1	5/5/1989	12/31/1998
Honorable Carol A. Husum	F	Abolished Court	D09-1	8/19/1994	12/31/1998
Honorable Kenneth A. Fricke	X	Abolished Court	D09-2	1/1/1969	12/31/1990
Honorable Robert C. Kropf	F	Abolished Court	D09-2	1/1/1991	12/31/1998
Honorable John W. Bothwell	X	Current Court	D10	1/1/1969	12/31/1982
Honorable William C. Burke	X	Current Court	D10	1/1/1969	8/31/1975
Honorable F. Jack Neller	X	Current Court	D10	1/1/1969	12/31/1974

Honorable Alfonso A. Magnotta	X	Current Court	D10	1/1/1975	6/11/1989
Honorable Shelton C. Penn	X	Current Court	D10	9/1/1975	12/31/1990
Honorable Stephen B. Miller	F	Current Court	D10	1/17/1977	12/31/1986
Honorable Allen L. Garbrecht	F	Current Court	D10	1/1/1983	12/31/1992
Honorable Franklin K. Line, Jr.	D	Current Court	D10	2/23/1987	
Honorable Samuel I. Durham, Jr.	D	Current Court	D10	8/9/1989	
Honorable Marvin Ratner	F	Current Court	D10	1/1/1991	12/31/2008
Honorable John R. Holmes	F	Current Court	D10	2/24/1993	6/7/2014
Honorable John A. Hallacy	C	Current Court	D10	1/1/2009	12/28/2015
Honorable James D. Norlander	D	Current Court	D10	7/21/2014	
Honorable Paul K. Beardslee	D	Current Court	D10	3/28/2016	
Honorable Robert Crary	X	Current Court	D12	1/1/1969	12/31/1990
Honorable Lysle G. Hall	X	Current Court	D12	1/1/1969	12/31/2004
Honorable David C. McGarvey	X	Current Court	D12	1/1/1969	10/1/1975
Honorable Robert E. Biewend	X	Current Court	D12	11/1/1975	2/6/1988
Honorable James M. Justin	F	Current Court	D12	1/1/1986	1/27/2012
Honorable Charles J. Falahee, Jr.	F	Current Court	D12	4/25/1988	5/1/2007
Honorable Carlene G. Lefere	F	Current Court	D12	1/1/1991	12/31/2002
Honorable R. Darryl Mazur	D	Current Court	D12	1/1/2003	
Honorable Joseph S. Filip	D	Current Court	D12	1/1/2005	
Honorable Michael J. Klaeren	D	Current Court	D12	8/6/2007	
Honorable Daniel A. Goostrey	D	Current Court	D12	4/25/2012	
Honorable Michael J. Baughman	F	Abolished Court	D13	4/1/1969	8/4/1969
Honorable Joseph A. McCollom	F	Abolished Court	D13	8/1/1969	12/31/1976
Honorable James M. Justin	F	Abolished Court	D13	1/1/1977	1/1/1986
Honorable Patrick J. Conlin	F	Current Court	D14A	1/1/1969	11/27/1972
Honorable Edward D. Deake	X	Current Court	D14A	1/1/1969	12/31/1972
Honorable Henry D. Arkison	X	Current Court	D14A	6/1/1969	12/31/1978
Honorable Robert V. Fink	X	Current Court	D14A	1/3/1973	7/21/1985



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Honorable Thomas F. Shea	X	Current Court	D14A	1/10/1973	1/15/1994
Honorable Kenneth Bronson	X	Current Court	D14A	1/1/1975	11/5/1994
Honorable Karl V. Fink	F	Current Court	D14A	1/1/1979	12/31/1994
Honorable Betty R. Widgeon	F	Current Court	D14A	3/21/1994	7/30/1999
Honorable Richard E. Conlin	D	Current Court	D14A	1/18/1995	
Honorable David S. Swartz	C	Current Court	D14A	1/18/1995	4/13/1997
Honorable Kirk W. Tabbey	D	Current Court	D14A	4/14/1997	
Honorable J. Cedric Simpson	D	Current Court	D14A	9/29/1999	
Honorable John B. Collins	X	Current Court	D14B	1/1/1985	12/31/2008
Honorable Charles Pope	D	Current Court	D14B	1/1/2009	
Honorable S. J. Elden	X	Current Court	D15	1/1/1969	12/31/1992
Honorable Pieter G.V. Thomassen	X	Current Court	D15	1/1/1969	3/1/1994
Honorable George W. Alexander	X	Current Court	D15	1/1/1975	8/17/1991
Honorable Timothy P. Connors	C	Current Court	D15	8/19/1991	3/17/1997
Honorable Elizabeth Pollard Hines	D	Current Court	D15	1/1/1993	
Honorable Ann E. Mattson	F	Current Court	D15	3/28/1994	12/31/2008
Honorable Archie Cameron Brown	C	Current Court	D15	3/24/1997	3/28/1999
Honorable Julie Creal	F	Current Court	D15	3/29/1999	1/12/2012
Honorable Christopher S. Easthope	F	Current Court	D15	1/1/2009	12/31/2015
Honorable Joseph F. Burke	D	Current Court	D15	3/12/2012	
Honorable Karen Q. Valvo	D	Current Court	D15	2/1/2016	
Honorable James R. McCann	F	Current Court	D16	1/1/1969	12/31/1994
Honorable James E. Mies	X	Current Court	D16	1/1/1969	6/29/1981
Honorable Gerald M. Conley	X	Current Court	D16	9/1/1981	12/31/1982
Honorable Robert B. Brzezinski	X	Current Court	D16	1/1/1983	12/31/2008
Honorable Kathleen J. McCann	D	Current Court	D16	1/1/1995	
Honorable Sean P. Kavanagh	D	Current Court	D16	1/1/2009	
Honorable Robert F. Brang	X	Current Court	D17	1/1/1969	4/25/1989
Honorable John M. Dillon	X	Current Court	D17	1/1/1969	12/31/1992
Honorable Richard E. Manning	X	Current Court	D17	7/6/1989	5/29/1994

Honorable Karen Khalil	D	Current Court	D17	1/1/1993	
Honorable Daniel P. Ryan	F	Current Court	D17	8/10/1994	12/8/1998
Honorable Charlotte L. Wirth	D	Current Court	D17	3/29/1999	
Honorable Michael W. Bradley	X	Current Court	D18	1/1/1969	12/31/1976
Honorable Thomas G. Smith	F	Current Court	D18	1/1/1969	6/1/1992
Honorable Evan H. Callanan	X	Current Court	D18	1/1/1977	9/18/1984
Honorable Gail McKnight	F	Current Court	D18	1/1/1985	12/31/2006
Honorable C. Charles Bokos	F	Current Court	D18	8/10/1992	12/31/2008
Honorable Sandra A. Ciciirelli	D	Current Court	D18	1/1/2007	
Honorable Mark A. McConnell	D	Current Court	D18	1/1/2009	
Honorable Ralph B. Guy	X	Current Court	D19	1/1/1971	12/31/1974
Honorable Joseph J. Burtell	X	Current Court	D19	1/1/1975	12/31/1992
Honorable Virginia A. Sobotka	X	Current Court	D19	1/1/1977	1/10/2005
Honorable William J. Runco	F	Current Court	D19	1/1/1991	12/31/2002
Honorable William C. Hultgren	F	Current Court	D19	1/1/1993	12/31/2016
Honorable Mark W. Somers	D	Current Court	D19	1/1/2003	
Honorable Richard Wygonik	F	Current Court	D19	3/14/2005	12/31/2012
Honorable Sam A. Salamey	D	Current Court	D19	1/1/2013	
Honorable L. Eugene Hunt, Jr.	D	Current Court	D19	1/1/2017	
Honorable Richard D. Dunn	X	Current Court	D20	1/1/1969	12/31/1974
Honorable George E. Wicklund	X	Current Court	D20	1/1/1969	12/31/1972
Honorable Leo K. Foran	X	Current Court	D20	1/1/1973	12/31/2006
Honorable Arpo Yemen	X	Current Court	D20	1/1/1975	12/31/1976
Honorable Duane Dunick	X	Current Court	D20	1/1/1977	4/30/1989
Honorable Edward J. Plawecki, Jr.	F	Current Court	D20	6/15/1989	4/5/1993
Honorable Gregory D. Bill	C	Current Court	D20	8/30/1993	12/31/1994
Honorable Mark J. Plawecki	D	Current Court	D20	1/1/1995	
Honorable David Turfe	D	Current Court	D20	1/1/2007	
Honorable Richard L. Hammer	X	Current Court	D21	1/1/1969	2/16/1990



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Honorable Richard L. Hammer, Jr.	D	Current Court	D21	3/12/1990	
Honorable John H. McCartney	X	Current Court	D22	1/1/1971	12/31/1988
Honorable Sylvia A. James	F	Current Court	D22	1/1/1989	7/31/2012
Honorable Sabrina L. Johnson	D	Current Court	D22	9/6/2012	
Honorable Anthony Nicita	F	Current Court	D23	1/1/1980	12/31/2000
Honorable William J. Sutherland	F	Current Court	D23	1/1/1980	12/31/2014
Honorable Geno Salomone	D	Current Court	D23	1/1/2001	
Honorable Joseph D. Slaven	D	Current Court	D23	1/1/2015	
Honorable Francis E. Burger	X	Current Court	D24	12/1/1977	6/30/1979
Honorable A. R. DeBiasi	X	Current Court	D24	12/1/1977	12/31/1992
Honorable Roy A. McGinty	X	Current Court	D24	12/1/1977	12/31/1978
Honorable Michael T. Russell	X	Current Court	D24	8/13/1979	6/1/2000
Honorable Gerard Trudel	F	Current Court	D24	1/1/1993	2/28/2003
Honorable John T. Courtright	D	Current Court	D24	9/18/2000	
Honorable Anthony S. Guerriero	F	Current Court	D24	9/15/2003	12/31/2004
Honorable Richard A. Page	D	Current Court	D24	1/1/2005	
Honorable William T. Chapman	X	Current Court	D25	12/1/1977	12/31/1986
Honorable Roy B. Cicotte	X	Current Court	D25	12/1/1977	12/31/1990
Honorable Joseph H. DeLaurentiis	F	Current Court	D25	1/1/1987	9/2/2003
Honorable David A. Bajorek	F	Current Court	D25	1/1/1991	3/31/2012
Honorable David J. Zelenak	D	Current Court	D25	3/22/2004	
Honorable Michael F. Ciungan	F	Current Court	D25	4/1/2012	12/31/2014
Honorable Gregory A. Clifton	D	Current Court	D25	1/1/2015	
Honorable George Mihai	X	Abolished Court	D26-1	1/1/1979	12/31/1984
Honorable Raymond A. Charron	F	Abolished Court	D26-1	1/1/1985	3/1/2011
Honorable Joseph John Lozo	X	Abolished Court	D26-2	1/1/1979	12/31/1984
Honorable Michael F. Ciungan	F	Abolished Court	D26-2	1/1/1985	3/31/2012
Honorable Randy L. Kalmbach	D	Current Court	D27	1/1/2003	
Honorable Lawrence L. Emmert	F	Abolished Court	D27-1	12/1/1977	3/31/1998
Honorable Conrad W. Kreger	F	Abolished Court	D27-1	5/6/1998	12/31/1998

Honorable Randy L. Kalmbach	D	Abolished Court	D27-1	1/1/1999	12/31/2002
Honorable Gilbert H. Zitzelsberger	F	Abolished Court	D27-2	12/1/1977	9/6/1983
Honorable Glenn C. Valasco	F	Abolished Court	D27-2	1/9/1984	12/31/2002
Honorable Donald C. Neitzel	X	Current Court	D28	1/1/1979	12/31/1990
Honorable James A. Kandrevas	D	Current Court	D28	1/1/1991	
Honorable John C. Seiler	X	Current Court	D29	1/1/1969	7/1/1985
Honorable Carolyn A. Archbold	X	Current Court	D29	9/23/1985	11/1/2003
Honorable Laura Redmond Mack	D	Current Court	D29	1/12/2004	
Honorable Kalem E. Garian	X	Current Court	D30	1/1/1979	12/31/1984
Honorable Thomas C. Bayles	F	Current Court	D30	1/1/1981	12/31/1986
Honorable William F. Bledsoe	X	Current Court	D30	1/1/1985	12/31/2002
Honorable Leslie Kim Smith	C	Current Court	D30	1/1/1987	3/31/2003
Honorable Brigette R. Officer-Hill	D	Current Court	D30	7/31/2003	
Honorable Walter Adam Paruk	X	Current Court	D31	1/1/1979	12/31/1990
Honorable Patrick T. Cahill	F	Current Court	D31	1/1/1991	10/21/2001
Honorable Paul J. Paruk	F	Current Court	D31	1/1/1991	6/24/2016
Honorable Alexis G Krot	D	Current Court	D31	8/15/2016	
Honorable Roger J. La Rose	F	Current Court	D32A	1/1/1979	12/31/2014
Honorable Daniel S. Palmer	D	Current Court	D32A	1/1/2015	
Honorable Gerald A. McNally	X	Current Court	D33	1/1/1969	5/4/1986
Honorable Audrey C. Stroia	F	Current Court	D33	1/1/1975	12/31/1980
Honorable Andrea J. Ferrara	F	Current Court	D33	1/1/1981	12/31/1986
Honorable Eugene J. Stroia	X	Current Court	D33	6/20/1986	12/31/1986
Honorable Kurt G. Kersten	F	Current Court	D33	1/1/1987	12/31/1996
Honorable Donald L. Swank	F	Current Court	D33	1/1/1987	10/31/2004
Honorable Michael K. McNally	D	Current Court	D33	1/1/1995	
Honorable James Kurt Kersten	D	Current Court	D33	1/1/1997	
Honorable Edward J. Nykiel	F	Current Court	D33	1/1/2005	12/31/2010
Honorable Jennifer Coleman Hesson	D	Current Court	D33	1/1/2011	



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Honorable Francis D. Ross	X	Current Court	D34	1/1/1969	1/31/1969
Honorable James B. Stone	X	Current Court	D34	4/1/1969	5/1/1989
Honorable Henry Zaborowski	X	Current Court	D34	1/1/1975	12/31/1998
Honorable William J. Szlinis	X	Current Court	D34	7/10/1989	12/31/2002
Honorable Felix F. Rogalle	X	Current Court	D34	1/1/1991	12/31/1994
Honorable Tina Brooks Green	D	Current Court	D34	1/1/1995	
Honorable Brian A. Oakley	D	Current Court	D34	1/1/1999	
Honorable David M. Parrott	D	Current Court	D34	1/1/2003	
Honorable Dunbar Davis	X	Current Court	D35	1/1/1969	12/31/1984
Honorable James N. Garber	F	Current Court	D35	1/1/1979	12/31/1994
Honorable John E. MacDonald	F	Current Court	D35	1/1/1985	12/31/2008
Honorable Ronald W. Lowe	D	Current Court	D35	1/1/1995	
Honorable Michael J. Gerou	D	Current Court	D35	1/1/2003	
Honorable James A. Plakas	D	Current Court	D35	1/1/2009	
Honorable Marianne O. Battani	F	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	12/27/1982
Honorable Frederick E. Byrd	X	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	12/31/1988
Honorable John Cozart, Jr.	X	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	12/31/1994
Honorable R. Patrick Donahue	X	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	3/1/1994
Honorable Theresa Doss	F	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	10/1/2003
Honorable Sharon Tevis Finch	F	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	1/4/1982
Honorable Ricardo J. Lubienski	X	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	1/14/1988
Honorable John A. Murphy	C	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	12/31/1986
Honorable Adam A. Shakoor	F	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	4/28/1989
Honorable Daniel J. Van Antwerp	F	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	8/1/1992
Honorable Thomas A. Van Tiem, Sr.	F	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	12/31/1992
Honorable Helene Nita White	F	Current Court	D36	9/1/1981	12/31/1982
Honorable Louis F. Simmons, Jr.	F	Current Court	D36	10/1/1981	5/6/1983
Honorable Alex J. Allen, Jr.	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/1982	12/31/1998
Honorable Wendy M. Baxter	F	Current Court	D36	1/1/1982	4/1/1986
Honorable Gerald Brock	F	Current Court	D36	1/1/1982	5/27/1994

Honorable James R. Chylinski	C	Current Court	D36	1/1/1982	5/12/1983
Honorable William A. Haley, Jr.	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/1982	4/12/1988
Honorable William J. Hathaway	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/1982	12/31/1994
Honorable Cynthia Diane Stephens	A	Current Court	D36	1/1/1982	6/23/1985
Honorable John R. Perry	X	Current Court	D36	2/1/1982	4/12/2004
Honorable Nancy McCaughan Blount	D	Current Court	D36	1/1/1983	
Honorable Prentis Edwards	F	Current Court	D36	1/1/1983	1/21/1985
Honorable Rufus Griffin, Jr.	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/1983	1/6/1995
Honorable Denise Page Hood	F	Current Court	D36	1/1/1983	5/23/1989
Honorable Marion A. Moore	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/1983	12/31/2004
Honorable Longworth D. Quinn	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/1983	1/4/1990
Honorable Chris E. Stith	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/1983	12/31/2000
Honorable Daphne Means Curtis	F	Current Court	D36	5/17/1983	3/27/1990
Honorable Leon Jenkins	F	Current Court	D36	5/17/1983	1/23/1991
Honorable Elbert E. Nance, Jr.	X	Current Court	D36	5/17/1983	5/31/1997
Honorable Isidore B. Torres	F	Current Court	D36	5/17/1983	3/29/1988
Honorable Wendy Cooley	F	Current Court	D36	1/1/1985	5/1/2000
Honorable Willie G. Lipscomb, Jr.	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/1985	5/11/2012
Honorable Pamela R. Harwood	F	Current Court	D36	1/23/1985	2/17/1989
Honorable Robert J. Sattler	X	Current Court	D36	6/24/1985	12/31/1986
Honorable Gershwin Allen Drain	F	Current Court	D36	4/3/1986	4/28/1987
Honorable David Martin Bradfield	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/1987	5/31/2006
Honorable Jimmylee Gray	F	Current Court	D36	5/1/1987	12/31/2008
Honorable Claudia Lauchie' Gartin	F	Current Court	D36	5/4/1987	1/31/2000
Honorable Robert L. Ziolkowski	F	Current Court	D36	2/29/1988	3/27/1990
Honorable Joseph N. Baltimore	F	Current Court	D36	3/30/1988	12/31/2014
Honorable Jeanette O'Banner-Owens	X	Current Court	D36	5/24/1988	7/27/2007
Honorable Paula G. Humphries	F	Current Court	D36	1/1/1989	10/1/2013
Honorable Vanesa F. Jones Bradley	F	Current Court	D36	1/1/1989	12/31/2012



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Honorable Deborah L. Langston	D	Current Court	D36	1/1/1989	
Honorable Trudy DunCombe Archer	F	Current Court	D36	3/6/1989	3/1/2006
Honorable Vesta Svenson	F	Current Court	D36	5/24/1989	12/31/1996
Honorable Norma Y. Dotson	X	Current Court	D36	6/8/1989	12/31/2002
Honorable C. Lorene Royster	F	Current Court	D36	3/23/1990	4/30/2010
Honorable Nick P. Krust	X	Current Court	D36	3/29/1990	10/3/1996
Honorable Nancy A. Farmer	F	Current Court	D36	3/30/1990	3/1/2011
Honorable Mary M. Waterstone	X	Current Court	D36	6/24/1991	10/13/1997
Honorable Donald Coleman	D	Current Court	D36	10/12/1992	
Honorable Leonia J. Lloyd	F	Current Court	D36	1/1/1993	12/31/2016
Honorable Marylin E. Atkins	F	Current Court	D36	3/30/1994	12/31/2012
Honorable Richard B. Halloran	C	Current Court	D36	5/28/1994	12/31/1996
Honorable Leona Lloyd	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/1995	6/9/2001
Honorable Greg Mathis	F	Current Court	D36	1/1/1995	12/31/1998
Honorable Izetta F. Bright	D	Current Court	D36	1/7/1995	
Honorable Wade H. McCree	F	Current Court	D36	10/16/1996	7/2/2004
Honorable Lydia Nance Adams	D	Current Court	D36	1/1/1997	
Honorable Patricia L. Jefferson	D	Current Court	D36	1/1/1997	
Honorable Deborah Ross Adams	F	Current Court	D36	10/21/1997	4/9/2006
Honorable Miriam B. Martin-Clark	F	Current Court	D36	11/17/1997	1/1/2016
Honorable Ted Wallace	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/1999	1/19/2006
Honorable Maria L. Oxholm	F	Current Court	D36	6/1/1999	3/13/2002
Honorable Donna R. Milhouse	D	Current Court	D36	2/7/2000	
Honorable Ruth Ann Garrett	D	Current Court	D36	1/1/2001	
Honorable Mark A. Randon	F	Current Court	D36	3/12/2001	7/6/2009
Honorable David S. Robinson, Jr.	D	Current Court	D36	9/4/2001	
Honorable Kevin F. Robbins	D	Current Court	D36	3/22/2002	
Honorable Beverly J. Hayes-Sipes	X	Current Court	D36	1/1/2003	11/6/2010
Honorable B. Pennie Millender	D	Current Court	D36	12/17/2003	
Honorable Katherine Hansen	F	Current Court	D36	4/23/2004	5/8/2016

Honorable Rudolph A. Serra	F	Current Court	D36	7/12/2004	12/31/2006
Honorable Deborah Geraldine Ford	D	Current Court	D36	1/1/2005	
Honorable Roberta C. Archer	D	Current Court	D36	3/23/2006	
Honorable Ruth C. Carter	F	Current Court	D36	4/10/2006	4/20/2016
Honorable Cylenthia LaToye Miller	D	Current Court	D36	4/10/2006	
Honorable Kenneth J. King	D	Current Court	D36	7/3/2006	
Honorable Ronald Giles	D	Current Court	D36	1/1/2007	
Honorable Esther Lynise Bryant-Weekes	D	Current Court	D36	11/19/2007	
Honorable Brenda Karen Sanders	F	Current Court	D36	1/1/2009	7/1/2015
Honorable Noceebea Southern	F	Current Court	D36	10/19/2009	10/28/2011
Honorable William McConico	D	Current Court	D36	7/12/2010	
Honorable George A. Chatman	X	Current Court	D36	12/30/2010	9/23/2011
Honorable Shannon A. Holmes	D	Current Court	D36	12/7/2011	
Honorable Prentis Edwards, Jr.	C	Current Court	D36	12/8/2011	8/1/2017
Honorable Michael E. Wagner	D	Current Court	D36	12/12/2011	
Honorable Demetria Brue	D	Current Court	D36	9/25/2012	
Honorable Wanda Evans	C	Current Court	D36	1/1/2013	12/31/2016
Honorable Alicia A. Jones-Coleman	D	Current Court	D36	1/1/2013	
Honorable David Perkins	D	Current Court	D36	2/7/2014	
Honorable Adrienne Hinnant-Johnson	D	Current Court	D36	11/18/2015	
Honorable Larry D. Williams, Jr.	D	Current Court	D36	2/1/2016	
Honorable Kahlilia Yvette Davis	D	Current Court	D36	1/1/2017	
Honorable Austin William Garrett	D	Current Court	D36	1/1/2017	
Honorable Kenyetta Stanford Jones	D	Current Court	D36	1/1/2017	
Honorable Christopher Michael Blount	D	Current Court	D36	3/27/2017	
Honorable Aliyah Sabree	D	Current Court	D36	11/6/2017	
Honorable Don Binkowski	F	Current Court	D37	1/1/1969	12/31/1986
Honorable Verne C. Boewe	X	Current Court	D37	1/1/1969	12/31/1976



JUDGES: PAST & PRESENT

Honorable Roy N. Gruenburg	F	Current Court	D37	1/1/1970	12/31/1976
Honorable Sherman P. Faunce, II	F	Current Court	D37	1/7/1975	12/31/1996
Honorable Thomas Edward Kennedy	X	Current Court	D37	1/1/1977	4/30/1996
Honorable George E. Montgomery	X	Current Court	D37	1/1/1977	12/31/1990
Honorable Deborah A. Servitto	A	Current Court	D37	1/1/1987	3/13/1990
Honorable Dawnn M. Gruenburg	F	Current Court	D37	4/23/1990	5/21/2012
Honorable Walter A. Jakubowski, Jr.	X	Current Court	D37	4/19/1991	10/1/2008
Honorable John M. Chmura	D	Current Court	D37	5/20/1996	
Honorable Susan R. Chrzanowski	F	Current Court	D37	1/1/1997	12/31/2002
Honorable Jennifer Faunce	C	Current Court	D37	1/1/2003	7/22/2013
Honorable Matthew P. Sabaugh	D	Current Court	D37	12/8/2008	
Honorable Dean Ausilio	F	Current Court	D37	12/5/2012	12/31/2014
Honorable Michael Chupa	D	Current Court	D37	12/30/2013	
Honorable Suzanne M Faunce	D	Current Court	D37	1/1/2015	
Honorable Robert J. Chrzanowski	F	Current Court	D38	1/1/1969	12/31/1974
Honorable Norene S. Redmond	F	Current Court	D38	1/1/2004	12/31/2008
Honorable Carl F. Gerds, III	D	Current Court	D38	1/1/2009	
Honorable Raymond R. Cashen	X	Current Court	D39	1/1/1969	12/31/1974
Honorable Mary E. McDevitt	X	Current Court	D39	1/1/1969	12/31/1996
Honorable William B. Ward	X	Current Court	D39	1/2/1975	9/1/1996
Honorable Mark S. Switalski	C	Current Court	D39	1/1/1989	12/31/2000
Honorable Marco A. Santia	D	Current Court	D39	12/30/1996	
Honorable Joseph F. Boedeker	D	Current Court	D39	1/1/1997	
Honorable Peter H. Mytnyk	F	Current Court	D39	3/13/2001	12/31/2002
Honorable Catherine B. Steenland	D	Current Court	D39	1/1/2003	
Honorable William A. Crouchman	F	Current Court	D40	11/1/1978	12/31/2000
Honorable Craigen J. Oster	X	Current Court	D40	11/1/1978	12/31/1996
Honorable Joseph Craigen Oster	D	Current Court	D40	1/1/1997	
Honorable Mark A. Fratarcangeli	D	Current Court	D40	1/1/2001	
Honorable Gordon E. Havey	F	Current Court	D41A	1/1/1969	7/17/1983

Honorable Andrew R. Dranchak	X	Current Court	D41A	1/1/1975	12/31/1996
Honorable Herman C. Campbell	F	Current Court	D41A	1/17/1978	12/31/2000
Honorable Kenneth J. Kosnic	X	Current Court	D41A	1/1/1979	1/3/2003
Honorable Thomas W. McDonell	F	Current Court	D41A	1/16/1984	12/31/1998
Honorable Michael S. Maceroni	D	Current Court	D41A	1/1/1997	
Honorable Stephen S. Sierawski	D	Current Court	D41A	1/1/1999	
Honorable Douglas P. Shepherd	D	Current Court	D41A	1/1/2001	
Honorable Kimberley Anne Wiegand	D	Current Court	D41A	10/15/2003	
Honorable Adam M. Nowicki	X	Current Court	D41B	1/1/1971	12/31/1976
Honorable John G. Roskopp	X	Current Court	D41B	3/1/1971	2/29/1980
Honorable William H. Cannon	X	Current Court	D41B	1/1/1977	1/31/2005
Honorable George C. Steeh	X	Current Court	D41B	5/30/1980	12/31/1990
Honorable George C. Steeh, III	F	Current Court	D41B	1/1/1989	11/15/1990
Honorable John C. Foster	F	Current Court	D41B	11/16/1990	4/30/2006
Honorable James A. Scandirito	X	Current Court	D41B	1/1/1991	1/7/2000
Honorable Linda Davis	D	Current Court	D41B	4/10/2000	
Honorable Sebastian Lucido	D	Current Court	D41B	7/1/2005	
Honorable Sheila A. Miller	F	Current Court	D41B	5/2/2006	12/31/2010
Honorable Carrie Lynn Fuca	D	Current Court	D41B	1/1/2011	
Honorable Richard D. McLean	F	Current Court	D42-1	1/1/1969	12/31/2002
Honorable Denis R. LeDuc	D	Current Court	D42-1	1/1/2003	
Honorable Richard E. Cyrul	F	Current Court	D42-2	1/1/1977	12/31/1994
Honorable Paul Cassidy	F	Current Court	D42-2	1/1/1995	5/31/2009
Honorable William H. Hackel, III	D	Current Court	D42-2	8/10/2009	
Honorable Joseph S. Agnello	X	Current Court	D43	1/1/1971	12/31/1994
Honorable Montague R. Hunt	X	Current Court	D43	1/1/1971	12/31/1980
Honorable Edward W. Lawrence	X	Current Court	D43	1/1/1971	9/14/1984
Honorable Douglas J.M. Voss	F	Current Court	D43	1/1/1981	2/1/1998



JUDGES: PAST & PRESENT

Honorable Robert J. Turner	F	Current Court	D43	8/14/1989	7/1/2010
Honorable Keith P. Hunt	D	Current Court	D43	1/1/1995	
Honorable Joseph Longo	D	Current Court	D43	3/6/1998	
Honorable Charles G. Goedert	D	Current Court	D43	9/13/2010	
Honorable Elmer E. Hartwig	X	Current Court	D44	1/1/1969	12/31/1972
Honorable Keith J. Leenhouts	X	Current Court	D44	1/1/1969	2/10/1969
Honorable John B. Osgood	X	Current Court	D44	2/11/1969	7/4/1980
Honorable Francis X. O'Brien	X	Current Court	D44	1/1/1973	12/31/1976
Honorable John R. Mann	X	Current Court	D44	1/1/1977	12/31/1990
Honorable Daniel Sawicki	F	Current Court	D44	11/3/1980	12/31/2012
Honorable Robert J. Turner	X	Current Court	D44	12/19/1984	5/24/1989
Honorable Terrence H. Brennan	F	Current Court	D44	1/1/1991	12/31/2014
Honorable Derek W. Meinecke	D	Current Court	D44	1/1/2013	
Honorable James L. Wittenberg	D	Current Court	D44	1/2/2015	
Honorable James L. Wittenberg	D	Current Court	D45	7/1/2012	1/8/2013
Honorable Michelle Friedman Appel	D	Current Court	D45	1/9/2013	
Honorable David M. Gubow	D	Current Court	D45	1/9/2013	
Honorable Roy J. Daniel	F	Abolished Court	D45A	1/1/1975	12/31/1978
Honorable John H. Norton	X	Abolished Court	D45A	1/1/1979	12/31/1990
Honorable William R. Sauer	F	Abolished Court	D45A	1/1/1991	12/31/2008
Honorable James L. Wittenberg	D	Abolished Court	D45A	1/1/2009	6/30/2012
Honorable James L. Wittenberg	D	Abolished Court	D45A	1/9/2013	1/1/2015
Honorable Marvin F. Frankel	F	Abolished Court	D45B	1/1/1975	12/31/2002
Honorable Benjamin J. Friedman	F	Abolished Court	D45B	1/1/1975	12/31/2002
Honorable Michelle Friedman Appel	D	Abolished Court	D45B	1/1/2003	6/30/2012
Honorable David M. Gubow	D	Abolished Court	D45B	1/1/2003	6/30/2012
Honorable S. James Clarkson	X	Current Court	D46	1/1/1969	12/31/1978
Honorable Clarence A. Reid, Jr.	F	Current Court	D46	1/1/1969	12/31/1986
Honorable Norman W. Feder	X	Current Court	D46	1/1/1973	3/19/1986
Honorable Jessica R. Cooper	F	Current Court	D46	1/1/1979	12/31/1986

Honorable Susan M. Moiseev	F	Current Court	D46	5/26/1986	12/31/2012
Honorable Stephen C. Cooper	F	Current Court	D46	1/1/1987	1/31/2007
Honorable Bryan Howard Levy	F	Current Court	D46	3/9/1987	12/31/2002
Honorable Shelia R. Johnson	D	Current Court	D46	1/1/2003	
Honorable William J. Richards	F	Current Court	D46	2/20/2007	7/3/2015
Honorable Debra Nance	D	Current Court	D46	1/1/2013	
Honorable Cynthia Arvant	D	Current Court	D46	7/31/2015	
Honorable Michael J. Hand	X	Current Court	D47	1/1/1969	5/1/1989
Honorable Margaret G. Schaeffer	X	Current Court	D47	1/1/1975	12/31/1992
Honorable Frederick L. Harris	X	Current Court	D47	5/3/1989	12/31/2002
Honorable Marla E. Parker	D	Current Court	D47	1/1/1993	
Honorable James Brady	D	Current Court	D47	1/1/2003	
Honorable Alice L. Gilbert	F	Current Court	D48	1/1/1969	12/31/1976
Honorable Carl F. Ingraham	X	Current Court	D48	1/1/1969	12/31/1984
Honorable Gus Cifelli	X	Current Court	D48	1/1/1973	12/31/2000
Honorable David F. Breck	X	Current Court	D48	1/1/1977	4/2/1982
Honorable Bernard A. Friedman	F	Current Court	D48	5/27/1982	6/1/1988
Honorable Edward Sosnick	F	Current Court	D48	1/1/1985	12/31/1988
Honorable Edward Avadenka	X	Current Court	D48	9/6/1988	12/31/2004
Honorable Thomas W. Brookover	F	Current Court	D48	3/1/1989	12/31/1996

Former judges of the 46th District Court in Southfield speaking to a group of students. (l to r) Hon. Bryan Levy, Hon. Susan Moiseev (MDJA President 2009), and Hon. Stephen Cooper (MDJA President 1995).



Honorable Kimberly Small	D	Current Court	D48	1/1/1997	
Honorable Diane D'Agostini	D	Current Court	D48	1/1/2001	
Honorable Marc Barron	D	Current Court	D48	1/1/2005	
Honorable Maurice Finnegan	X	Current Court	D50	1/1/1969	12/31/1972
Honorable Cecil McCallum	X	Current Court	D50	1/1/1969	12/31/1974
Honorable James R. Stelt	X	Current Court	D50	1/1/1969	2/18/1988
Honorable Robert E. Cunningham	F	Current Court	D50	1/1/1971	7/1/1988
Honorable Christopher C. Brown	F	Current Court	D50	1/1/1973	2/1/2004
Honorable Louis E. Fairbrother	F	Current Court	D50	1/1/1975	12/31/1998
Honorable William Waterman	X	Current Court	D50	5/26/1988	4/27/2003
Honorable Charles W. McDonald	X	Current Court	D50	8/1/1988	12/31/1988
Honorable Leo Bowman	C	Current Court	D50	1/1/1989	2/5/2007
Honorable Preston G. Thomas	D	Current Court	D50	1/1/1999	
Honorable Cynthia Thomas Walker	D	Current Court	D50	10/1/2003	
Honorable Michael C. Martinez	D	Current Court	D50	3/22/2004	
Honorable Ronda Fowlkes Gross	D	Current Court	D50	1/1/2009	
Honorable Kenneth H. Hempstead	X	Current Court	D51	1/1/1969	12/31/2002
Honorable Robert C. Anderson	X	Current Court	D51	1/1/1973	12/31/1980
Honorable Robert W. Carr	X	Current Court	D51	2/2/1981	12/31/1994
Honorable Phyllis C. McMillen	C	Current Court	D51	1/1/1995	9/12/2010
Honorable Richard D. Kuhn, Jr.	D	Current Court	D51	1/1/2003	
Honorable Jodi R. Debbrecht Switalski	F	Current Court	D51	11/15/2010	1/31/2016
Honorable Todd A. Fox	D	Current Court	D51	1/1/2017	
Honorable Martin L. Boyle	F	Current Court	D52-1	1/1/1969	1/19/1988
Honorable Gene Schnelz	F	Current Court	D52-1	1/1/1975	12/31/1978
Honorable Michael Batchik	F	Current Court	D52-1	3/1/1979	1/1/2003
Honorable Harold M. Bulgarelli	F	Current Court	D52-1	1/1/1981	5/31/1998
Honorable Brian W. MacKenzie	F	Current Court	D52-1	3/25/1988	12/31/2014
Honorable Dennis N. Powers	F	Current Court	D52-1	6/1/1998	9/1/2014

Honorable Robert Bondy	D	Current Court	D52-1	1/1/2003	
Honorable Travis Reeds	D	Current Court	D52-1	1/1/2015	
Honorable Thomas David Law	D	Current Court	D52-1	2/27/2015	
Honorable Gerald E. McNally	F	Current Court	D52-2	1/1/1969	12/31/2002
Honorable Michael Batchik	F	Current Court	D52-2	1/1/2003	12/31/2004
Honorable Dana Fortinberry	F	Current Court	D52-2	1/1/2003	12/31/2008
Honorable Kelley Renae Kostin	D	Current Court	D52-2	1/1/2005	
Honorable Joseph G. Fabrizio	D	Current Court	D52-2	1/1/2009	
Honorable Robert L. Shipper	X	Current Court	D52-3	1/1/1969	12/31/1996
Honorable Mildred A. Vlaich	X	Current Court	D52-3	1/1/1975	12/31/1980
Honorable James P. Sheehy	F	Current Court	D52-3	1/1/1981	1/7/2000
Honorable Ralph H. Nelson	F	Current Court	D52-3	1/1/1989	12/31/2000
Honorable Julie A. Nicholson	D	Current Court	D52-3	1/1/1997	
Honorable Nancy Tolwin Carniak	D	Current Court	D52-3	1/31/2000	
Honorable Lisa L. Asadoorian	D	Current Court	D52-3	1/1/2001	
Honorable William E. Bolle	F	Current Court	D52-4	11/1/1978	12/31/2014
Honorable Bristol E. Hunter	X	Current Court	D52-4	11/1/1978	12/31/1992
Honorable James Raymond Hand	F	Current Court	D52-4	1/1/1979	1/15/1984
Honorable Dennis C. Drury	F	Current Court	D52-4	4/9/1984	12/31/2012
Honorable Michael A. Martone	X	Current Court	D52-4	1/1/1993	12/31/2010
Honorable Kirsten Nielsen Hartig	D	Current Court	D52-4	1/1/2011	
Honorable Maureen M. McGinnis	D	Current Court	D52-4	1/1/2015	
Honorable Bert M. Hensick	X	Current Court	D53	1/1/1969	12/31/1974
Honorable Richard R. Robinson	F	Current Court	D53	1/1/1971	12/31/1976
Honorable David G. Gee	X	Current Court	D53	1/8/1975	5/10/1992
Honorable Michael F. Merritt	F	Current Court	D53	1/1/1977	12/31/1988
Honorable Frank R. Del Vero	F	Current Court	D53	1/1/1987	7/31/2004
Honorable A. John Pikkarainen	F	Current Court	D53	1/1/1989	12/31/2006



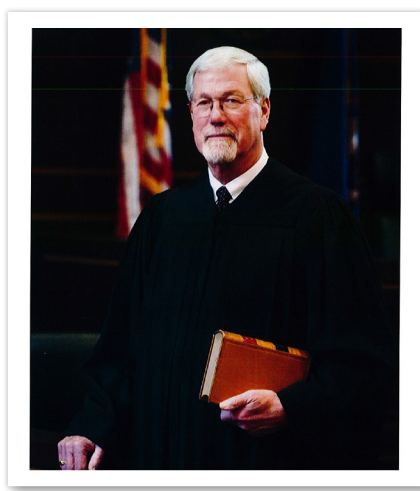
JUDGES: PAST & PRESENT

Honorable Michael K. Hegarty	X	Current Court	D53	5/22/1992	5/11/2005
Honorable L. Suzanne Geddis	D	Current Court	D53	1/1/2005	
Honorable Theresa M. Brennan	D	Current Court	D53	7/11/2005	
Honorable Carol Sue Reader	D	Current Court	D53	1/1/2007	
Honorable Terrance A. Clem	X	Current Court	D54A	1/1/1971	2/3/1985
Honorable Earl E. McDonald	X	Current Court	D54A	1/1/1971	7/1/1972
Honorable Charles N. Murphy	X	Current Court	D54A	1/1/1971	5/11/1971
Honorable James J. Wood	X	Current Court	D54A	1/1/1971	12/31/2000
Honorable Charles F. Filice	F	Current Court	D54A	7/2/1971	12/31/2014
Honorable Michael F. Cavanagh	X	Current Court	D54A	1/1/1973	12/31/1974
Honorable James R. Giddings	F	Current Court	D54A	1/1/1973	12/31/1978
Honorable Patrick F. Cherry	F	Current Court	D54A	1/8/1975	8/9/2017
Honorable William E. Collette	C	Current Court	D54A	2/20/1979	12/10/1990
Honorable Claude R. Thomas	X	Current Court	D54A	1/1/1981	12/31/1992
Honorable John W. Davis	X	Current Court	D54A	4/15/1985	2/18/1995
Honorable Beverley Renee Nettles-Nickerson	F	Current Court	D54A	12/17/1990	12/31/2002
Honorable Paula J.M. Manderfield	F	Current Court	D54A	1/1/1993	12/31/2000
Honorable Frank J. DeLuca	D	Current Court	D54A	1/1/2001	
Honorable Louise Alderson	D	Current Court	D54A	8/13/2001	
Honorable Amy Ronayne Krause	A	Current Court	D54A	3/25/2003	12/12/2010
Honorable Hugh B. Clarke, Jr.	D	Current Court	D54A	12/22/2010	
Honorable Stacia J. Buchanan	D	Current Court	D54A	9/12/2017	
Honorable Maurice Edward Schoenberger	F	Current Court	D54B	1/1/1971	2/24/1974
Honorable Daniel L. Tschirhart	X	Current Court	D54B	2/25/1974	12/31/1986
Honorable Jules I. Hanslovsky	X	Current Court	D54B	1/1/1987	12/31/1992
Honorable David L. Jordon	F	Current Court	D54B	1/1/1990	12/31/2012
Honorable Richard D. Ball	D	Current Court	D54B	1/1/1993	
Honorable Andrea Andrews Larkin	D	Current Court	D54B	1/1/2013	

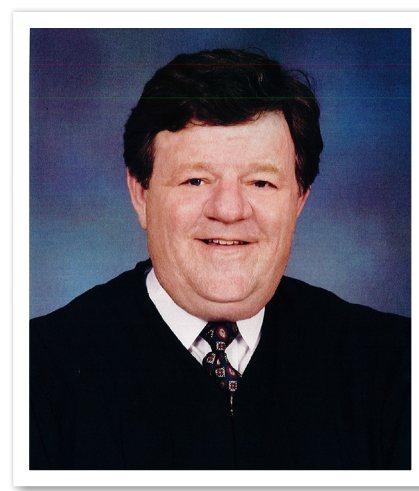
Honorable James H. Edgar	X	Current Court	D55	1/1/1969	12/31/1972
Honorable R. William Reid	X	Current Court	D55	1/1/1969	12/31/1980
Honorable Robert Holmes Bell	F	Current Court	D55	1/1/1973	12/31/1978
Honorable John P. O'Brien	X	Current Court	D55	1/1/1979	4/26/1980
Honorable Thomas R. Roberts	X	Current Court	D55	6/1/1980	1/16/1988
Honorable Thomas E. Brennan, Jr.	F	Current Court	D55	1/1/1981	12/31/2004
Honorable Pamela J. McCabe	F	Current Court	D55	3/28/1988	5/31/2005
Honorable Rosemarie E. Aquilina	C	Current Court	D55	1/1/2005	12/31/2008
Honorable Thomas P. Boyd	D	Current Court	D55	7/25/2005	
Honorable Donald L. Allen	D	Current Court	D55	1/5/2009	
Honorable Gary R. Holman	F	Abolished Court	D56-1	1/1/1979	12/31/1998
Honorable Kenneth A. Hansen	X	Abolished Court	D56-2	1/1/1969	11/1/1996
Honorable Joseph L. Bauer	X	Abolished Court	D56-2	8/18/1971	12/31/1984
Honorable Paul F. Berger	F	Abolished Court	D56-2	1/1/1985	12/31/1998
Honorable Harvey J. Hoffman	F	Abolished Court	D56-2	1/6/1997	12/31/1998
Honorable Paul F. Berger	F	Current Court	D56A	1/1/1999	10/28/2005
Honorable Harvey J. Hoffman	F	Current Court	D56A	1/1/1999	8/1/2016
Honorable Julie H. Reincke	D	Current Court	D56A	1/16/2006	



*Hon. John Galien, Jr.
58th District Court, County of Ottawa*



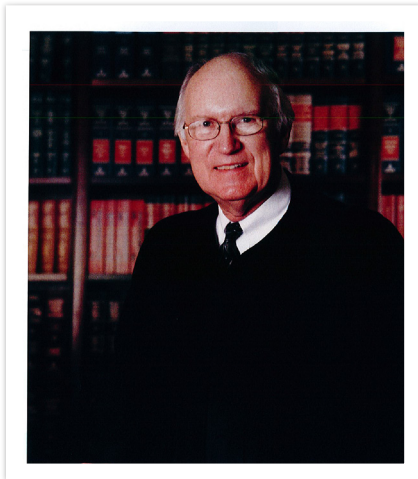
*Hon. Richard J. Kloote
58th District Court, County of Ottawa*



*Hon. Edward R. Post
58th District Court, County of Ottawa*



Honorable Julie O'Neill	D	Current Court	D56A	1/1/2017	
Honorable Gary R. Holman	F	Current Court	D56B	1/1/1999	2/28/2011
Honorable Michael Lee Schipper	D	Current Court	D56B	6/27/2011	
Honorable George R. Corsiglia	F	Current Court	D57	6/16/1972	5/17/1974
Honorable Gary A. Stewart	F	Current Court	D57	6/18/1974	1/17/2006
Honorable Harry A. Beach	F	Current Court	D57	1/1/1977	12/31/1990
Honorable Stephen E. Sheridan	F	Current Court	D57	4/29/1991	1/30/2009
Honorable Joseph S. Skocelas	D	Current Court	D57	5/1/2006	
Honorable William A. Baillargeon	D	Current Court	D57	3/9/2009	
Honorable John Galien, Jr.	X	Current Court	D58	1/1/1969	7/1/1992
Honorable Jacob Ponstein	X	Current Court	D58	1/1/1969	12/31/1982
Honorable Gerald J. Van Wyke	X	Current Court	D58	1/1/1969	12/31/1980
Honorable Kenneth D. Post	F	Current Court	D58	1/1/1981	12/31/2016
Honorable Richard J. Kloote	F	Current Court	D58	1/1/1983	12/31/2012
Honorable Edward R. Post	F	Current Court	D58	1/1/1991	12/31/1992
Honorable Hannes Meyers, Jr.	F	Current Court	D58	8/3/1992	12/31/2002
Honorable Susan A. Jonas	D	Current Court	D58	1/26/1993	
Honorable Bradley S. Knoll	D	Current Court	D58	1/1/2003	



Hon. Hannes Meyers Jr.
58th District Court, County of Ottawa



Hon. Susan A. Jonas
58th District Court, County of Ottawa



Hon. Bradley S. Knoll
58th District Court, County of Ottawa

Honorable Craig E. Bunce	D	Current Court	D58	1/1/2013	
Honorable Judith K. Mulder	D	Current Court	D58	1/1/2017	
Honorable Sherwin J. Venema	X	Current Court	D59	1/1/1981	12/31/1998
Honorable Peter P. Versluis	D	Current Court	D59	1/1/1999	
Honorable Edward Campbell Farmer, Jr.	X	Current Court	D60	1/1/1969	12/31/1992
Honorable William Hanna	X	Current Court	D60	1/1/1969	1/14/1971
Honorable Ralph Rose, Jr.	X	Current Court	D60	1/1/1969	12/31/1972
Honorable Harold J. Steendam	X	Current Court	D60	1/1/1969	12/31/1976
Honorable Jack M. Grimm	F	Current Court	D60	2/1/1971	12/31/1974
Honorable Fredric A. Grimm, Jr.	X	Current Court	D60	1/1/1973	8/2/2006
Honorable M. Dale Render	X	Current Court	D60	1/1/1975	9/15/1977
Honorable Richard J. Pasarella	F	Current Court	D60	3/5/1976	12/31/2002
Honorable James M. Graves, Jr.	F	Current Court	D60	1/1/1977	12/31/1980
Honorable William J. Cole	F	Current Court	D60	1/16/1978	10/1/1998
Honorable William C. Marietti	C	Current Court	D60	2/2/1981	9/5/1996
Honorable Michael Jeffrey Nolan	F	Current Court	D60	12/9/1996	6/1/2014
Honorable Andrew Wierengo	F	Current Court	D60	1/1/1999	12/31/2016
Honorable Harold F. Closz, III	D	Current Court	D60	1/1/2003	
Honorable Maria Ladas Hoopes	D	Current Court	D60	12/14/2006	
Honorable Raymond J. Kostrzewa, Jr.	D	Current Court	D60	10/6/2014	
Honorable Geoffrey Thomas Nolan	D	Current Court	D60	1/1/2017	
Honorable Louis E. Simhauser	X	Current Court	D61	1/1/1969	12/31/1984
Honorable J. Robert Smolenski	X	Current Court	D61	1/1/1969	6/1/1984
Honorable Paul A. Wright	X	Current Court	D61	1/1/1969	12/31/1982
Honorable Woodrow A. Yared	X	Current Court	D61	1/1/1969	12/31/1978
Honorable Gordon A. Doherty	X	Current Court	D61	6/1/1972	12/31/1984
Honorable Donald A. Johnston, III	C	Current Court	D61	2/19/1979	12/31/1988
Honorable Carol S. Irons	X	Current Court	D61	1/1/1983	10/19/1988



• • • **JUDGES: PAST & PRESENT** • • •

Honorable Michael Robert Smolenski	X	Current Court	D61	6/11/1984	12/31/1990
Honorable Patrick C. Bowler	F	Current Court	D61	1/1/1985	12/31/2008
Honorable Joel P. Hoekstra	A	Current Court	D61	1/1/1985	12/31/1994
Honorable Ben H. Logan, II	F	Current Court	D61	1/1/1989	11/30/2014
Honorable Paul J. Sullivan	C	Current Court	D61	1/1/1989	3/20/1995
Honorable James B. Howard	F	Current Court	D61	2/1/1989	12/31/1990
Honorable Jane E. Markey	A	Current Court	D61	1/1/1991	12/31/1994
Honorable J. Michael Christensen	F	Current Court	D61	5/6/1991	9/19/2014
Honorable David J. Buter	D	Current Court	D61	3/20/1995	
Honorable Donald H. Passenger	F	Current Court	D61	4/3/1995	10/25/2015
Honorable Jeanine Nemesi LaVille	D	Current Court	D61	8/14/1995	
Honorable Kimberly A. Schaefer	D	Current Court	D61	1/1/2009	
Honorable Jennifer Faber	D	Current Court	D61	11/18/2014	
Honorable Michael J. Distel	D	Current Court	D61	1/20/2015	
Honorable Christina Elmore	D	Current Court	D61	2/22/2016	
Honorable Jack R. Jelsema	X	Current Court	D62A	1/1/1979	2/28/2003
Honorable Richard H. Timmers	X	Current Court	D62A	1/1/1979	12/31/2000
Honorable Steven M. Timmers	D	Current Court	D62A	1/1/2001	
Honorable M. Scott Bowen	F	Current Court	D62A	8/11/2003	7/15/2005
Honorable Pablo Cortes	D	Current Court	D62A	10/17/2005	
Honorable William G. Kelly	D	Current Court	D62B	1/1/1979	
Honorable Jeffrey J. O'Hara	D	Current Court	D63	1/3/2015	
Honorable Sara J. Smolenski	D	Current Court	D63	1/3/2015	
Honorable Edward J. Kehoe, Jr.	X	Abolished Court	D63-1	1/1/1969	12/31/1972
Honorable Steven R. Servaas	F	Abolished Court	D63-1	1/1/1973	12/31/2014
Honorable Jeffrey J. O'Hara	D	Abolished Court	D63-1	1/1/2015	1/2/2015
Honorable Joseph B. White	F	Abolished Court	D63-2	1/1/1969	12/31/1990
Honorable Sara J. Smolenski	D	Abolished Court	D63-2	1/1/1991	1/2/2015
Honorable C. Ronald Van Buren	X	Current Court	D64A	1/1/1969	12/31/1978

Honorable James R. Ward	F	Current Court	D64A	1/1/1979	12/31/1990
Honorable David A. Hoort	F	Current Court	D64A	1/1/1991	12/31/1998
Honorable Raymond P. Voet	D	Current Court	D64A	3/8/1999	
Honorable Benjamin W. Franklin	X	Current Court	D64B	1/1/1969	12/31/1978
Honorable Arney E. Mustonen	X	Current Court	D64B	1/1/1979	12/31/1990
Honorable Joel S. Gehrke	F	Current Court	D64B	1/1/1991	12/31/1996
Honorable Donald R. Hemingsen	D	Current Court	D64B	1/1/1997	
Honorable Robert M. Sheldon	X	Abolished Court	D65-1	12/23/1971	5/23/1986
Honorable James B. Mackie	F	Abolished Court	D65-1	6/23/1986	12/31/1998
Honorable Roland J. Duguay	X	Abolished Court	D65-2	1/1/1969	6/7/1973
Honorable Frederick M. Lewis	X	Abolished Court	D65-2	7/23/1973	12/31/1984
Honorable Jeffrey L. Martlew	F	Abolished Court	D65-2	1/1/1985	12/31/1992
Honorable Richard D. Wells	X	Abolished Court	D65-2	4/1/1993	12/31/1998
Honorable Richard D. Wells	X	Current Court	D65A	1/1/1999	12/31/2014
Honorable Michael E. Clarizio	D	Current Court	D65A	1/1/2015	
Honorable James B. Mackie	F	Current Court	D65B	1/1/1999	12/31/2008
Honorable Stewart D. McDonald	D	Current Court	D65B	1/1/2009	
Honorable Peter J. Marutiak	X	Current Court	D66	1/1/1969	9/1/1974
Honorable Bruce A. Fox	F	Current Court	D66	1/1/1971	12/31/1994
Honorable Raymond E. Basso		Current Court	D66	9/13/1974	7/26/1980
Honorable George L. BeGole	X	Current Court	D66	11/30/1980	12/31/1996
Honorable Ward L. Clarkson	D	Current Court	D66	1/1/1995	
Honorable Terrance P. Dignan	D	Current Court	D66	1/1/1997	
Honorable Harry P. Newblatt	X	Current Court	D67-1	1/1/1969	9/16/1989
Honorable Arthalu Lancaster	F	Current Court	D67-1	12/21/1989	1/15/2002
Honorable Donald G. Rockwell	F	Current Court	D67-1	3/4/2002	12/31/2002
Honorable David J. Goggins	D	Current Court	D67-1	1/1/2003	
Honorable Luke Quinn	X	Current Court	D67-2	1/1/1969	8/17/1970



• • • • • **JUDGES: PAST & PRESENT** • • •

Honorable Charles B. Mosier	F	Current Court	D67-2	9/21/1970	9/30/1992
Honorable Gerald D. Snodgrass	X	Current Court	D67-2	1/1/1975	8/1/1994
Honorable John L. Conover	F	Current Court	D67-2	1/1/1993	12/31/2014
Honorable Richard L. Hughes	F	Current Court	D67-2	11/30/1994	12/31/2010
Honorable Mark W. Latchana	D	Current Court	D67-2	1/1/2011	
Honorable Jennifer J. Manley	D	Current Court	D67-2	1/1/2015	
Honorable William R. Evans	X	Current Court	D67-3	1/1/1969	12/31/1996
Honorable Larry Stecco	F	Current Court	D67-3	1/1/1997	12/31/2014
Honorable Vikki Bayeh Haley	D	Current Court	D67-3	1/1/2015	
Honorable Harland R. Caswell	X	Current Court	D67-4	1/1/1973	12/31/1994
Honorable Ronald W. Black	X	Current Court	D67-4	1/17/1977	11/18/1992
Honorable Mark C. McCabe	D	Current Court	D67-4	2/11/1993	
Honorable Christopher Odette	D	Current Court	D67-4	1/1/1995	
Honorable Tracy L. Collier-Nix	F	Current Court	D67-5	1/2/2016	4/14/2017
Honorable William H. Crawford, II	D	Current Court	D67-5	1/2/2016	
Honorable Mary Catherine Dowd	F	Current Court	D67-5	1/2/2016	12/31/2016
Honorable Herman Marable, Jr.	D	Current Court	D67-5	1/2/2016	
Honorable Nathaniel C. Perry, III	D	Current Court	D67-5	1/2/2016	
Honorable G. David Guinn	D	Current Court	D67-5	5/15/2017	
Honorable Basil F. Baker	X	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1969	12/31/1980
Honorable Ollie B. Bivins, Jr.	X	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1969	7/1/1972
Honorable Albert P. Horrigan	X	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1969	12/31/1992
Honorable Walter P. Kuta	X	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1969	3/18/1985
Honorable Dale A. Riker	X	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1969	12/31/1984
Honorable James M. Shaker	X	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1969	2/2/1986
Honorable William S. Price, III	X	Abolished Court	D68	8/16/1972	3/17/1983
Honorable Judith A. Fullerton	C	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1981	12/31/1982
Honorable Thomas M. Donnellan	F	Abolished Court	D68	5/1/1983	12/31/1990
Honorable Lee Vera Loyd	F	Abolished Court	D68	5/5/1983	3/21/1986

Honorable Michael D. McAra	F	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1985	3/31/2007
Honorable Kenneth M. Siegel	X	Abolished Court	D68	5/21/1985	5/30/1997
Honorable Geoffrey L. Neithercut	C	Abolished Court	D68	4/7/1986	12/31/1994
Honorable Dale A. Riker	X	Abolished Court	D68	5/1/1986	12/31/1986
Honorable Peter Anastor	F	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1987	1/31/2004
Honorable Nathaniel C. Perry, III	D	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1991	1/1/2016
Honorable Ramona M. Roberts	F	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1993	7/1/2008
Honorable Archie L. Hayman	F	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/1995	7/21/1996
Honorable Raymond J. Branch	F	Abolished Court	D68	7/22/1996	12/31/2000
Honorable William H. Crawford, II	D	Abolished Court	D68	9/18/1997	1/1/2016
Honorable Herman Marable, Jr.	D	Abolished Court	D68	1/1/2001	1/1/2016
Honorable Tracy L. Collier-Nix	F	Abolished Court	D68	12/10/2007	1/1/2016
Honorable Mary Catherine Dowd	F	Abolished Court	D68	8/23/2008	1/1/2016
Honorable Joseph P. Friske	X	Current Court	D70-1	1/1/1969	5/7/1975
Honorable Joseph L. Scorsone	X	Current Court	D70-1	1/1/1969	9/13/1979
Honorable Gary R. McDonald	X	Current Court	D70-1	2/10/1972	12/31/1976
Honorable Daniel R. Webber	X	Current Court	D70-1	9/5/1975	5/26/1990
Honorable Joseph G. DeFrancesco	F	Current Court	D70-1	1/17/1977	7/1/2002
Honorable Harry M. Titus	X	Current Court	D70-1	11/20/1979	12/31/1996
Honorable Terry L. Clark	D	Current Court	D70-1	8/10/1990	
Honorable M. T. Thompson, Jr.	F	Current Court	D70-1	1/1/1997	4/30/2016
Honorable M. Randall Jurrens	D	Current Court	D70-1	7/29/2002	
Honorable Harold W. Martin	X	Current Court	D70-2	1/1/1969	12/31/1982
Honorable Bruce J. Scorsone	F	Current Court	D70-2	1/1/1969	11/1/2000
Honorable Maurice L. van Benschoten	X	Current Court	D70-2	1/1/1969	12/31/1980
Honorable Robert E. Bright	F	Current Court	D70-2	1/1/1981	2/2/1989
Honorable Kyle Higgs Tarrant	F	Current Court	D70-2	1/1/1983	10/21/2016
Honorable Christopher S. Boyd	F	Current Court	D70-2	4/4/1989	12/31/2012



• • • **JUDGES: PAST & PRESENT** • • •

Honorable Darnell Jackson	C	Current Court	D70-2	2/5/2001	4/30/2006
Honorable Alfred T. Frank	D	Current Court	D70-2	5/1/2006	
Honorable Manvel Trice, III	C	Current Court	D70-2	8/8/2016	12/10/2017
Honorable David D. Hoffman	D	Current Court	D70-2	1/9/2017	
Honorable Elian Fichtner	D	Current Court	D70-2	4/17/2018	
Honorable Michael C. Dionise	X	Current Court	D71A	1/1/1969	12/31/1990
Honorable John P. Spires	F	Current Court	D71A	1/1/1971	12/31/1982
Honorable John T. Connolly	F	Current Court	D71A	1/1/1983	12/31/2012
Honorable Laura Cheger Barnard	D	Current Court	D71A	1/1/1991	
Honorable Richard F. Kern	X	Current Court	D71B	1/1/1969	4/7/1990
Honorable Kim David Glaspie	D	Current Court	D71B	4/9/1990	
Honorable Wilbur V. Hamm	X	Current Court	D72	1/1/1969	12/31/1980
Honorable James M. Kelly	F	Current Court	D72	1/1/1969	12/31/1982
Honorable Richard A. Cooley, Jr.	F	Current Court	D72	1/1/1981	12/31/2010
Honorable Gerald E. Mugan	X	Current Court	D72	11/22/1982	9/14/1983
Honorable Daniel J. Kelly	C	Current Court	D72	1/1/1983	9/9/1994
Honorable John G. Cummings	F	Current Court	D72	12/21/1983	12/31/2002
Honorable David C. Nicholson	F	Current Court	D72	10/3/1994	12/31/2006
Honorable Cynthia Siemen Platzer	D	Current Court	D72	1/1/2003	
Honorable John D. Monaghan	D	Current Court	D72	1/1/2007	
Honorable Michael L. Hulewicz	D	Current Court	D72	1/1/2011	
Honorable John T. Schubel	F	Abolished Court	D73-1	1/1/1969	8/3/1989
Honorable Karl E. Kraus	F	Abolished Court	D73-1	10/10/1989	12/31/1998
Honorable Eugene E. Deegan	X	Abolished Court	D73-2	1/1/1969	12/31/1978
Honorable Richard P. Riordan	X	Abolished Court	D73-2	1/1/1979	12/31/1984
Honorable James A. Marcus	F	Abolished Court	D73-2	1/1/1985	12/31/1998
Honorable James A. Marcus	F	Current Court	D73A	1/1/1999	12/31/2008
Honorable Gregory S. Ross	P	Current Court	D73A	1/1/2009	12/21/2011
Honorable Gregory S. Ross	P	Current Court	D73A	12/22/2011	

Honorable Karl E. Kraus	F	Current Court	D73B	1/1/1999	1/1/2008
Honorable David B. Herrington	P	Current Court	D73B	2/8/2008	3/31/2012
Honorable David B. Herrington	P	Current Court	D73B	4/1/2012	
Honorable David L. Clabuesch	P	Current Court	D73B	11/15/2013	
Honorable Ira W. Butterfield	X	Current Court	D74	1/1/1969	12/1/1978
Honorable Arthur E. Higgs	X	Current Court	D74	1/1/1969	3/2/1985
Honorable Paul O. Harvey	X	Current Court	D74	3/1/1970	12/31/1984
Honorable Scott J. Newcombe	F	Current Court	D74	4/2/1979	5/30/2010
Honorable Craig D. Alston	F	Current Court	D74	1/1/1985	12/1/2009
Honorable John C. Leaming	X	Current Court	D74	6/1/1985	12/31/2000
Honorable Timothy J. Kelly	D	Current Court	D74	1/1/2001	
Honorable Dawn A. Klida	D	Current Court	D74	2/8/2010	
Honorable Jennifer Cass Barnes	F	Current Court	D74	6/1/2010	12/31/2010
Honorable Mark E. Janer	D	Current Court	D74	1/1/2011	
Honorable Henry Hart	X	Current Court	D75	1/1/1969	5/20/1982
Honorable Robert G. Fraser	F	Current Court	D75	2/1/1974	12/31/1996
Honorable Thomas A. Beale	X	Current Court	D75	12/6/1982	12/31/1988
Honorable James E. Wilson	X	Current Court	D75	4/7/1989	11/4/2002
Honorable John Henry Hart	F	Current Court	D75	1/1/1997	12/31/2013
Honorable Philip M. Van Dam	X	Current Court	D75	12/27/2002	12/12/2004
Honorable Robert L. Donoghue	F	Current Court	D75	6/23/2005	12/31/2006
Honorable Stephen Carras	C	Current Court	D75	1/1/2007	6/30/2013
Honorable Michael Carpenter	D	Current Court	D75	1/2/2014	
Honorable Douglas A. Dehn	X	Current Court	D76	1/1/1969	12/31/1978
Honorable Peter D. O'Connell	A	Current Court	D76	1/1/1979	12/31/1994
Honorable William R. Rush	F	Current Court	D76	3/27/1995	8/31/2013
Honorable Eric Janes	D	Current Court	D76	12/20/2013	
Honorable Frank H. Ryman	F	Current Court	D77	1/1/1973	8/21/1975



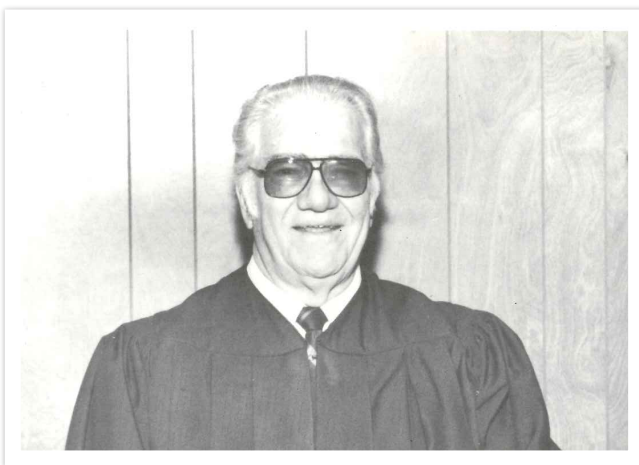
• • • • • **JUDGES: PAST & PRESENT** • • •

Honorable Robert L. Miles	X	Current Court	D77	11/17/1975	5/11/1982
Honorable George Van Kula	X	Current Court	D77	10/4/1982	12/31/1996
Honorable Susan H. Grant	F	Current Court	D77	1/1/1997	12/31/2014
Honorable Peter Jaklevic	D	Current Court	D77	1/1/2015	
Honorable George A. Worcester	X	Current Court	D77~1	1/1/1969	12/31/1972
Honorable John P. Riley	X	Current Court	D78	1/1/1969	2/1/1978
Honorable Richard J. Farabaugh	X	Current Court	D78	3/20/1978	4/1/1995
Honorable H. Kevin Drake	D	Current Court	D78	5/22/1995	
Honorable Frederick G. Mather	F	Current Court	D79	1/1/1969	12/31/1978
Honorable John R. Carney, Jr.	F	Current Court	D79	1/1/1979	12/31/2002
Honorable Peter J. Wadel	D	Current Court	D79	1/1/2003	
Honorable Mark S. Wickens	P	Current Court	D79	4/1/2003	
Honorable Jon H. Ringelberg	F	Current Court	D80	1/1/1969	12/31/1984
Honorable Gary J. Allen	F	Current Court	D80	1/1/1985	12/31/2008
Honorable Joshua M. Farrell	D	Current Court	D80	1/1/2009	
Honorable J. Richard Ernst	F	Current Court	D81	1/1/1969	10/20/1980
Honorable Robert J. Hummel	X	Current Court	D81	11/16/1980	5/10/1988
Honorable Edward M. Keller	F	Current Court	D81	6/27/1988	12/31/1996
Honorable Allen C. Yenior	F	Current Court	D81	1/1/1997	11/30/2016
Honorable Richard E. Vollbach, Jr.	P	Current Court	D81	3/31/2003	
Honorable Jack William Scully	X	Abolished Court	D81	4/1/2003	5/25/2009
Honorable Laura A. Frawley	P	Current Court	D81	1/2/2007	
Honorable Kathryn Joan Root	P	Current Court	D81	1/2/2007	
Honorable Christopher P. Martin	P	Current Court	D81	12/1/2016	
Honorable Joel I. Mills	X	Current Court	D82	8/1/1975	12/31/1990
Honorable Paul T. Dwyer, Jr.	F	Current Court	D82	1/1/1991	12/31/1996
Honorable Richard E. Noble	D	Current Court	D82	1/1/1997	
Honorable Daniel L. Sutton	F	Current Court	D82	4/1/2012	6/27/2015
Honorable Francis L. Walsh	F	Abolished Court	D83	1/1/1969	12/31/2002

Honorable Daniel L. Sutton	F	Abolished Court	D83	1/1/2003	3/31/2012
Honorable Frank H. Miltner	X	Current Court	D84	1/1/1969	6/26/1984
Honorable Charles D. Corwin	F	Current Court	D84	8/3/1984	12/31/1990
Honorable David A. Hogg	F	Current Court	D84	1/1/1991	1/1/2013
Honorable Charles R. Parsons	P	Current Court	D84	1/2/2007	
Honorable Audrey D. Van Alst	D	Current Court	D84	11/1/2013	
Honorable William W. Stapleton	X	Current Court	D85	6/1/1970	12/31/1984
Honorable Brent V. Danielson	F	Current Court	D85	1/1/1985	2/28/2011
Honorable Nancy A. Kida	F	Current Court	D85	1/2/2007	12/31/2012
Honorable Thomas N. Brunner	P	Current Court	D85	12/22/2011	
Honorable John D. Mead	P	Current Court	D85	1/1/2013	
Honorable Richard L. Benedict	X	Current Court	D86	1/1/1973	11/1/1996
Honorable James R. McCormick	F	Current Court	D86	1/1/1977	12/31/2000
Honorable Michael J. Haley	F	Current Court	D86	1/1/1997	1/31/2015
Honorable Norman R. Hayes	P	Current Court	D86	3/26/2000	12/31/2000
Honorable Thomas S. Gilbert	F	Current Court	D86	1/1/2001	12/31/2004
Honorable Thomas J. Phillips	D	Current Court	D86	1/1/2001	
Honorable John D. Foresman	F	Current Court	D86	1/1/2005	12/31/2010
Honorable Michael Stepka	D	Current Court	D86	1/1/2011	
Honorable Daniel F. Walsh	F	Abolished Court	D87	1/1/1969	11/1/1972
Honorable William A. Porter	X	Abolished Court	D87	1/1/1973	1/8/1975
Honorable E. Patrick Murray	F	Abolished Court	D87	1/30/1975	12/31/1990
Honorable Norman R. Hayes	P	Abolished Court	D87	1/1/1991	3/26/2000
Honorable Patricia A. Morse	F	Abolished Court	D87	1/1/1991	3/30/2009
Honorable John G. Hunter	F	Abolished Court	D87	4/1/2003	12/31/2006
Honorable Patricia A. Morse	F	Current Court	D87A	4/1/2009	1/1/2017
Honorable Michael K. Cooper	P	Current Court	D87A	1/1/2017	
Honorable Lynne Marie Buday	P	Current Court	D87B	4/1/2003	



Honorable Monte Burmeister	P	Current Court	D87C	5/2/2012	
Honorable Robert D. Mandenberg	X	Current Court	D88	1/1/1968	12/31/1972
Honorable John J. Mack	X	Current Court	D88	1/1/1973	5/23/1984
Honorable Theodore O. Johnson	F	Current Court	D88	7/2/1984	12/31/2014
Honorable John E. Fitzgerald	F	Current Court	D88	1/2/2007	12/31/2012
Honorable Benjamin T. Bolser	P	Current Court	D88	1/1/2013	
Honorable Thomas J. LaCross	P	Current Court	D88	1/1/2015	
Honorable Philip S. Tschirhart	F	Current Court	D89	1/1/1969	12/31/1984
Honorable Harold A. Johnson, Jr.	F	Current Court	D89	1/1/1985	12/31/2008
Honorable Donald J. McLennan	P	Current Court	D89	1/2/2007	
Honorable Maria I. Barton	D	Current Court	D89	1/1/2009	
Honorable Wayne Richard Smith	F	Current Court	D90	1/1/1969	12/31/1972
Honorable Arthur R. Reibel	X	Current Court	D90	1/1/1973	10/1/1974
Honorable David W. Fershee	F	Current Court	D90	4/1/1975	5/30/1981
Honorable Harvey C. Varnum	X	Current Court	D90	7/27/1981	5/1/1995
Honorable Richard W. May	F	Current Court	D90	8/1/1995	9/30/2012
Honorable James N. Erhart	D	Current Court	D90	10/26/2012	
Honorable Nicholas J. Lambros	F	Current Court	D91	1/1/1969	12/31/1972



The late Hon. Harvey C. Varnum
90th District Court, Counties of Charlevoix and Emmet

Below: MSC Chief Justice Stephen J. Markman (left) presents a resolution to Hon. James N. Erhart, Chief Judge of the 90th District Court in Petoskey, for hosting MSC oral arguments there in 2017.



Honorable John E. LaRock	X	Current Court	D91	1/1/1973	12/31/1984
Honorable Michael W. MacDonald	F	Current Court	D91	1/1/1985	12/31/2008
Honorable Elizabeth Biolette Church	X	Current Court	D91	1/1/2009	5/6/2017
Honorable Eric Blubaugh	P	Current Court	D91	5/16/2017	
Honorable Robert A. Wood	F	Current Court	D92	1/1/1969	12/31/1990
Honorable Steven E. Ford	F	Current Court	D92	1/1/1991	10/31/2003
Honorable Barbara J. Brown	F	Current Court	D92	1/5/2004	12/31/2004
Honorable Beth Gibson	D	Current Court	D92	1/1/2005	
Honorable Charles H. Stark	X	Current Court	D93	1/1/1969	1/31/1988
Honorable Bruce E. Plackowski	F	Current Court	D93	2/1/1988	12/31/2002
Honorable Thomas G. Mercier	F	Current Court	D93	1/1/1989	12/31/1990
Honorable Bruce E. Plackowski	F	Current Court	D93	1/1/1991	12/31/2002
Honorable Mark E. Luoma	D	Current Court	D93	1/1/2003	
Honorable Dean J. Shipman	F	Current Court	D94	1/1/1969	5/14/1985
Honorable Robert J. DeGrand	F	Current Court	D94	5/15/1985	12/31/2002
Honorable Glenn A. Pearson	F	Current Court	D94	1/1/2003	12/31/2014
Honorable Steve Parks	D	Current Court	D94	1/1/2015	
Honorable Russell W. Bradley	X	Current Court	D95A	1/1/1969	12/31/1984
Honorable Jeffrey G. Barstow	D	Current Court	D95A	1/1/1985	
Honorable V. Robert Payant	F	Current Court	D95B	1/1/1969	1/2/1978
Honorable Richard J. Celello	F	Current Court	D95B	4/3/1978	1/1/1983
Honorable William R. Brouillette	X	Current Court	D95B	4/1/1983	4/16/1990
Honorable C. Joseph Schwedler	P	Current Court	D95B	5/24/1990	12/28/1990
Honorable Michael J. Kusz	F	Current Court	D95B	1/1/1991	12/31/2008
Honorable C. Joseph Schwedler	P	Current Court	D95B	1/1/2005	
Honorable Christopher S. Ninomiya	C	Current Court	D95B	1/1/2009	1/3/2018
Honorable Julie Ann LaCost	D	Current Court	D95B	2/23/2018	
Honorable Stephen J. Catel	X	Current Court	D96	1/1/1969	12/31/1984
Honorable George E. Hill	X	Current Court	D96	1/1/1969	12/31/1974



JUDGES: PAST & PRESENT

Honorable William S. Easton	X	Current Court	D96	1/1/1975	12/31/1986
Honorable James M. Collins	F	Current Court	D96	1/1/1985	12/31/2002
Honorable Patricia L. Micklow	F	Current Court	D96	1/1/1987	6/1/2000
Honorable Dennis H. Girard	F	Current Court	D96	8/7/2000	8/30/2015
Honorable Roger W. Kangas	D	Current Court	D96	1/1/2003	
Honorable Karl Weber	D	Current Court	D96	12/30/2015	
Honorable William G. Konstenius	X	Current Court	D97	1/1/1969	12/31/1990
Honorable Phillip L. Kukkonen	F	Current Court	D97	1/1/1991	12/31/2008
Honorable Timothy S. Brennan	P	Current Court	D97	1/2/2007	
Honorable Mark A. Wisti	D	Current Court	D97	1/1/2009	
Honorable Eugene R. Zinn	X	Current Court	D98	2/1/1970	3/1/1982
Honorable William G. Cloon, Jr.	X	Current Court	D98	4/2/1982	10/18/1982
Honorable Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.	F	Current Court	D98	1/1/1983	12/31/2014
Honorable Joseph D. Zeleznik	X	Current Court	D98	1/1/2005	7/31/2009
Honorable Janis M. Burgess	P	Current Court	D98	5/2/2012	
Honorable Joel L. Massie	P	Current Court	D98	1/1/2015	
Honorable Bert M. Heideman	X	Abolished Court	D99	1/1/1969	6/20/1972

Please note: Not all court or judge information could be verified.



Judges from multiple Detroit-area courts convene to mark the advent of the state's new district court system late in 1968, which replaced the municipal court system. (Photo credit: Detroit News)

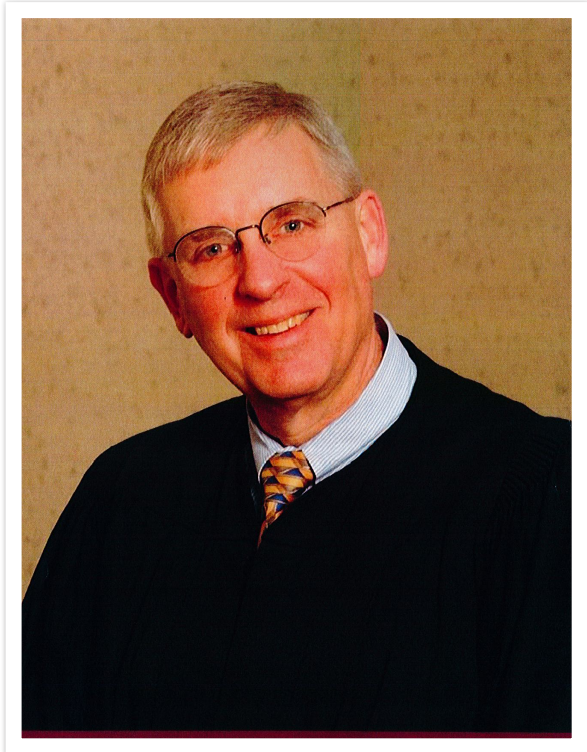
MICHIGAN DISTRICT JUDGES ASSOCIATION: PAST PRESIDENTS

1969	Judge Alice Gilbert, Temporary Chair	1994	Judge Patrick Bowler
1970	Judge Alice Gilbert	1995	Judge Stephen C. Cooper
1971	Judge Fred Mather	1996	Judge Carolyn A. Archbold
1972	Judge Gordy Havey	1997	Judge Jeanette O'Banner-Owens
1973	Judge Robert Payant	1998	Judge William Runco
1974	Judge James Mies	1999	Judge Sara J. Smolenski
1975	Judge Mike Hand	2000	Judge James M. Collins
1976	Judge Don Goodwillie	2001	Judge Leo Bowman
1977	Judge Woody Yared	2002	Judge Ramona M. Roberts
1978	Judge Al Horrigan	2003	Judge Richard Ball
1979	Judge Lysle Hall	2004	Judge Tina Brooks Green
1980	Judge Dean Shipman	2005	Judge Quinn Benson
1981	Judge James McCann	2006	Judge Phyllis McMillen
1982	Judge S.J. Elden	2007	Judge Kirk W. Tabbey
1983	Judge Donald E. James	2008	Judge Donna R. Milhouse
1984	Judge John T. Hammond	2009	Judge Susan Moiseev
1985	Judge Michael Merritt	2010	Judge Kathleen J. McCann
1986	Judge William Cannon	2011	Judge Terry L. Clark
1987	Judge Roger LaRose	2012	Judge Donald Passenger
1988	Judge Donald Neitzel	2013	Judge Ronald Lowe
1989	Judge William Kelly	2014	Judge Brian Oakley
1990	Judge Kenneth Post	2015	Judge Richard Hammer
1991	Judge Theresa Doss	2016	Judge Katherine Hansen
1992	Judge Michael Batchik	2017	Judge Thomas Boyd
1993	Judge Peter O'Connell	2018	Judge Shelia R. Johnson (current)





MDJA Past President Hon. Michael J. Hand (1975), far right, with fellow judges of the 47th District Court in Farmington Hills: Hon. Frederick L. Harris (far left), and Hon. James B. Brady (portrait)



*Hon. Kenneth D. Post (1990)
58th District Court, County of Ottawa*



*Hon. Kathleen J. McCann (2010)
16th District Court in Livonia*



*Hon. Richard D. Ball (2003)
54B District Court in East Lansing*

FORMER LEGISLATOR DENNIS CAWTHORNE: A LOOK BACK AT THE LAW THAT CREATED DISTRICT COURTS IN MICHIGAN

Ever notice that the Michigan judiciary's website is called "One Court of Justice"?

That came from language in the newly-adopted Michigan Constitution in 1963, which mandated that there be "one court of justice" consisting of courts of limited jurisdiction that the legislature had to establish by a two-thirds majority vote.

On June 17, 1968, legislation was signed into law that created this District Court system and simultaneously abolished Justice of the Peace (JOP) offices and circuit court commissioners.

Lobbyist Dennis Cawthorne, partner and co-founder of Kelley Cawthorne in Lansing, was a new state representative at the time and recalls the struggle to pass this legislation.

"The legislature was under a lot of pressure to get this done, but they didn't take this up with any seriousness until 1967 — four years after the new Constitution — and it had to be done before January 1, 1969," he explained.

"I recognized that this was going to be a big challenge because I had my local government constituents, and because I represented five counties in West Michigan, so I had about 100 JOPs looking over my shoulder," he continued, chuckling. "And the Bar was concerned, as well. There was a lot of political pressure. But I had a feeling that this reform was an absolute necessity."

Cawthorne served on the House Judiciary Committee under the late Donald Holbrook, who, as committee chair, was charged with advancing the legislation.

"Don really took up the challenge of leading the way," he shared. "This was my first term in the legislature, so the process was all new to me."

Cawthorne explained that as there was a 56–54 Republican majority in the House back then, the House Judiciary Committee was comprised of seven



Dennis Cawthorne

Republicans (including himself and Rep. Holbrook) and six Democrats. Eight of the 13 committee members were attorneys.

"It was a very capable group," he remarked.

Cawthorne outlines that it was a "monumental struggle" to pass because of the constitutional requirements—a two-thirds majority vote, e.g.—and many questions that needed to be answered:

- Would it be a court of record?
- Would the judges need to be attorneys first?
- Who was going to finance these courts?
- Where are we going to be able to find able personnel to run the system?
- How do you contend with JOPs who were paid with fees? (Most of whom were not enthusiastic about their positions being abolished, recalls Cawthorne.)



“I strongly supported it because it was obvious that our old system of lay JOPs, which was comprised of a fee system, was antiquated and not at all suitable for 20th Century and beyond,” he remarked. “It truly was a ‘horse and buggy system.’ I felt it was important to have a well-trained and well-staffed judiciary.”

Governor George Romney called a special session of legislature, which was rare, and his main objective was to get the legislature to create this new court system. The governor then had Rep. Holbrook introduce a substitute bill, but then the legislature eventually reverted back to the original Holbrook bill.

When it eventually passed the House in March 1968, it did so with only a vote or two to spare in order to achieve the two-thirds majority, recalls Cawthorne.

On the Senate side, Sen. Robert Richardson of Saginaw headed the Senate Judiciary Committee.

A compromise was voted down, so a major concession was put in place to get the Senate fully on board. That change allowed some courts to opt out of the new district system. This was pushed by House Speaker Rep. Robert Waldron and Sen. George Fitzgerald, both of Grosse Pointe, so that is why the Grosse Pointe area

still has a municipal court system.

“This legislation is a true monument to bipartisan legislation,” Cawthorne said. “It should be noted that on the final vote, not all House committee members voted for this. But overall, we had great pride in what we had created, partially because of the sheer magnitude.”

He gives the lion’s share of the credit to Holbrook for his work in the leading the charge. Cawthorne also commended these legislators for their leadership: Senators Daniel Cooper, Robert Traxler, Roger Craig, and George Fitzgerald on the Democratic side; and Senators Richardson and L. Harvey Lodge, and House Speaker Waldron on the Republican side.

“The system we created has been a great success. Modifications to it in the last 50 years have been relatively minor,” Cawthorne stated proudly. “District Court has fulfilled our fondest wishes for being a respected and effective court, and the struggle was worth it. Michigan has one of the best judicial systems in the country.”



Three attorney members of the House Judiciary Committee confer in mid-1967 on pending legislation creating the district court system. L–R, First-term Rep. Dennis Cawthorne of Manistee; Rep. James Heinze of Battle Creek, later one of the six members of the joint House Senate Conference Committee that would write the final bill; and Rep. Joseph Swallow of Alpena, later a judge of the 26th Judicial Circuit for over 30 years.

MICHIGAN'S BUSIEST DISTRICT COURT: DETROIT'S 36TH DISTRICT COURT

Although Public Act 154 of 1968 established District Courts throughout the State of Michigan, consolidating the many municipal courts, police courts, and justice of the peace courts, the city of Detroit and the county of Wayne were given until the date of May 1, 1981, to enact resolutions establishing the 36th District Court. Agreements were needed between the city and the county to divide expenses outside of judicial salaries in order to begin operating as a district court. These resolutions were adopted on April 30, 1981, and the Court commenced to function on September 1, 1981.

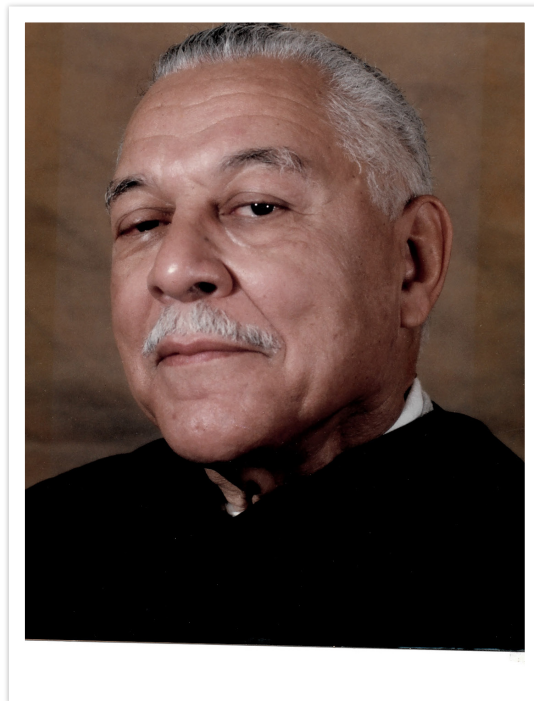
Operating previously as the Common Pleas Court of the city of Detroit, and the Traffic and Ordinance Division of the Recorder's Court of the City of Detroit, these entities were abolished and their jurisdictions were absorbed by the creation of the new district court. All incumbent judges of the Common Pleas Court were appointed to the remainder of their elected terms as 36th District Court judges. These judges included:

- *Hon. Marianne O. Battani*
- *Hon. Frederick E. Byrd*
- *Hon. John Cozart, Jr.*
- *Hon. R. Patrick Donahue*
- *Hon. Theresa Doss*
- *Hon. Sharon Tevis Finch*
- *Hon. Ricardo J. Lubienski*
- *Hon. John A. Murphy*
- *Hon. Adam A. Shakoor*
- *Hon. Daniel J. Van Antwerp*
- *Hon. Thomas A. Van Tiem, Sr.*
- *Hon. Helene Nita White*

In addition, 16 new judgeships were created with

the establishment of the 36th District Court. Special elections occurred over the next three years to fill these seats, with longer term lengths given to the highest vote-getters in a tiered system.

The 36th District Court is the largest district court in the state of Michigan, and one of the busiest courts in the nation. The Court processes an average of half a million cases annually. Chief Judge Nancy M. Blount presides over the Court, and oversees 29 judges and five magistrates. Court Administrator Kelli Owen helms a staff of more than 300 employees. The 36th District Court has undergone major physical and procedural upgrades over the last five years and is constantly evolving and implementing improvements to remain at the forefront of technology, accessibility, and public service.



*Hon. Frederick E. Byrd
First Chief Judge of the 36th District Court*



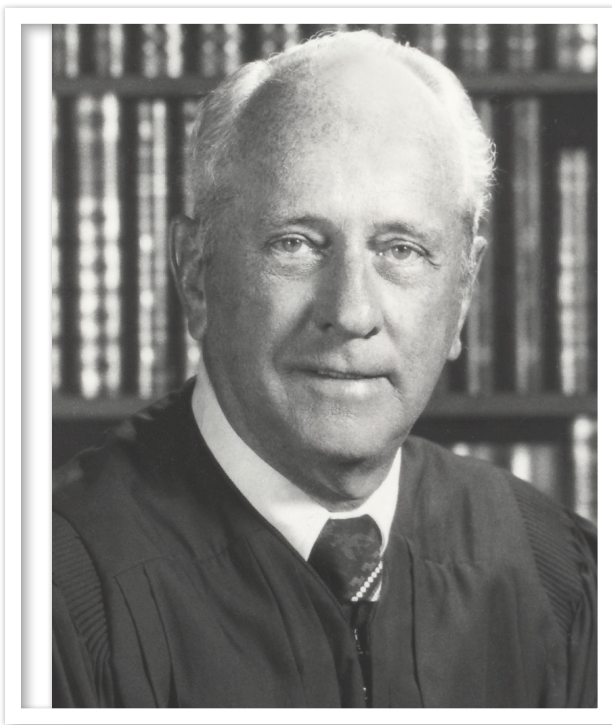
DISTRICT JUDGES IN PHOTOS



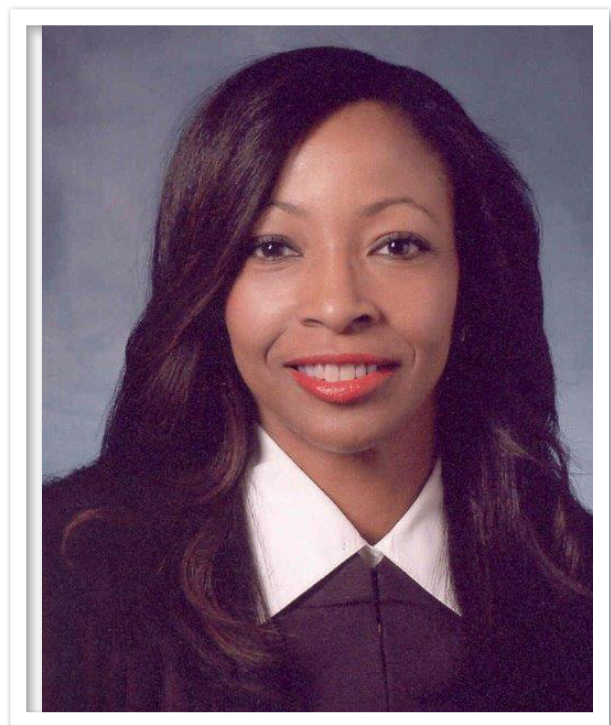
*Hon. Cynthia Arvant
46th District Court in Southfield*



*Hon. Raymond P. Voet
64A District Court in Ionia*



*The late Hon. Leo K. "Pat" Cook
5th District Court in Berrien County*



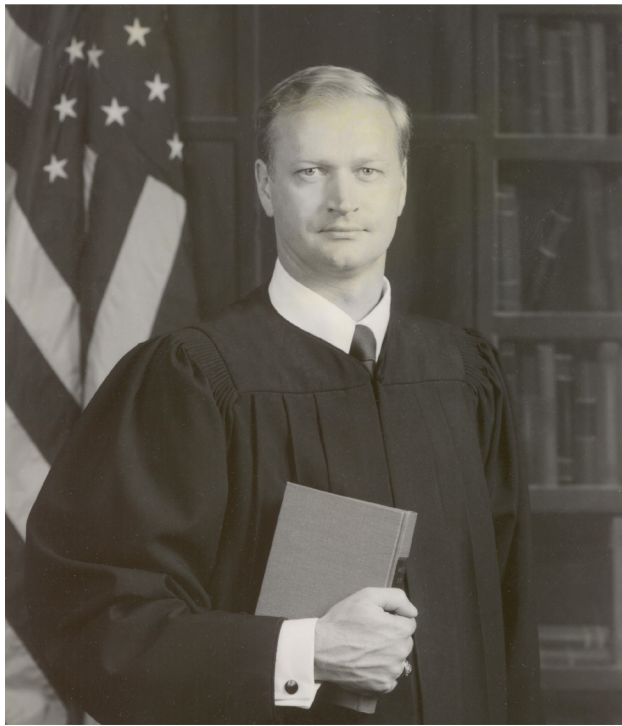
*Hon. Shelia R. Johnson (MDJA President 2018)
46th District Court in Southfield*



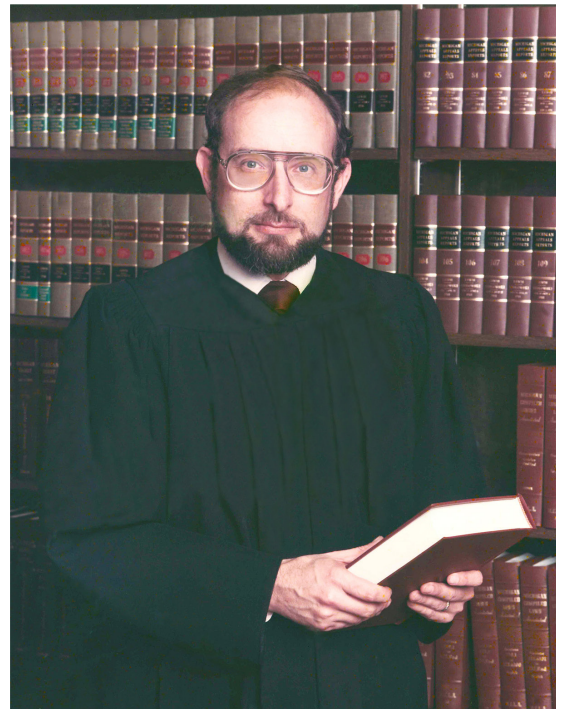
*Hon. Phyllis C. McMillen (MDJA President 2006)
51st District Court, Oakland County Circuit Court*



Detroit-area judges mark the creation of the district court system in 1968. (Photo credit: Detroit News)



*Hon. David Peterson
5th District Court in Berrien County,
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Tribal Court*



*Hon. Hugh W. Black
5th District Court in Berrien County*

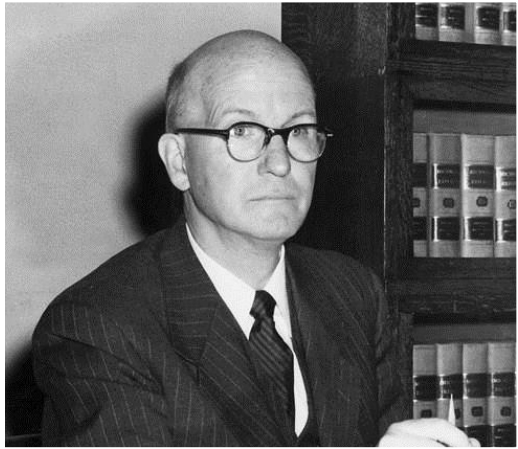




MSC Court Community Connections oral arguments in Petoskey, April 2017. (l to r) Hon. James Erhart with his grand-nephew Alique Henlin; MSC Justice David F. Viviano; grand-nephew Alex Henlin; niece Savannah Henlin; and wife Suzanne Erhart.



*The late Hon. Sherman J. Venema
59th District Court in Kent County*



*The late Hon. Harry A. Laity
5th District Court in Berrien County*



(l to r) Hon. William G. Kelly (MDJA President 1989), the first and only judge of the 62B District Court in Kentwood, being robed by his late father, outgoing municipal judge Hon. Joseph Kelly.

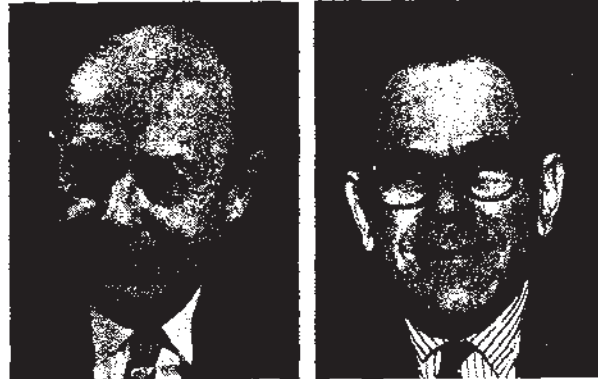
Retired MSC Chief Justice Maura Corrigan (standing) celebrating the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new 47th District Courthouse in 2003.



FROM THE STATE BAR JOURNAL: DISTRICT COURTS BEGIN OPERATION

(Reprinted with permission from the State Bar of Michigan.)

DISTRICT COURTS BEGIN OPERATION



LESLIE B. BUTLER

TOM DOWNS

Eyes for the State Bar of Michigan in the recent legislative session, the authors worked long hours in behalf of the district court bill all the experts said couldn't win approval—but did.

By TOM DOWNS and LESLIE B. BUTLER

Michigan's new lower court system, the first basic change in the area in the state's history, becomes operative January 1, 1969.

Justices of the peace and circuit court commissioners will vanish. In their place will function 150 district judges, 124 of them elected November 5 and 26 blanketed in as incumbent municipal judges where municipal courts were retained.

Excluding the new state constitution's creation of a single integrated court system, the change is an outstanding event in the Michigan judicial system.

District courts achieved enactment in the legislature after long debates and mental anguish for many lawmakers.

Some wanted to keep, in effect, the justice of the peace system. Some wanted to allow non-lawyers to serve as district judges. Some wanted to delay action—but that constitutional deadline for action faced them.

One highlight of the new law is the fact that district court judges must be attorneys and full-time judges, experienced in the laws which they must confront.

Where justices of the peace were paid through fees, a system often criticized, district court judges will receive salaries, a minimum of \$18,000 and a maximum of \$27,500.

The important point now is that the new system is ready to begin its life.

Difficulties in the legislature hinged partly on the need for two-thirds majorities in both the House and the Senate if a new court was to be created. This requirement is in the state constitution.

The new law was admittedly a compromise. Whether it is perfect is no longer the point. If experience shows the need, amendments to the law now can be achieved by a simple majority vote in the legislative chambers.

The following notes are prepared to be read in conjunction with the printed copy of Public Act No. 154 of 1968 which establishes the new lower court system for Michigan. The emphasis is on those matters affecting the attorney and his clients that will appear before this new court. It does not go into detail on matters such as boundaries of districts and election divisions and costs and distribution of fines important primarily to the affected units of government.



The general principles in this new act provide for full-time district judges (Sec. 8203) who must be attorneys, receive a minimum of \$18,000 (Sec. 8202 [1]) and a maximum of \$27,500 (Sec. 8202 [2]). Detroit (Sec. 8105) is excepted and certain municipalities could exempt themselves (Sec. 9928 [1]). Jurisdiction in civil matters is exclusive to \$3,000 (Sec. 8301) and criminal jurisdiction includes misdemeanors, felony examinations, and setting bail and accepting bond (Sec. 8311).

With these generalizations, the following specific analysis is given:

Sec. 8101. A district court is established. Judicial districts are created subject to the superintending control of the supreme court.

It is declared that the district court is *NOT* a court of record. This statement may be due to court challenge since each district court is required to keep records according to rules prescribed by the supreme court (Sec. 8181 and 8601 through 8635). The term "court of record" is particularly significant, because, although Michigan's constitution permits a jury of less than 12 in civil cases (Art. IV, Sec. 44), the Michigan constitution permits a jury of less than 12 in criminal cases *ONLY IN COURTS NOT OF RECORD* (Art. IV, Sec. 20). Public Act No. 154 provides for civil juries of 6 (Sec. 8353) and criminal juries of 6 (Sec. 8355). This act is so constructed that if Sec. 8355 permitting criminal juries of only six is declared unconstitutional, the rest of the act is not affected.

Sec. 8102. The provisions for the election divisions are separate from and have no effect on the administration of a judicial district.

Sec. 8103. Three classes of districts are created: the first, of districts with one or more counties; the second and third of districts within a county. The second class districts are financed by the counties and third class by the political subdivisions. The purpose of this section is not judicial, but is to determine the method of financing district courts. Each district described in Sections 8111 through 8164 has, as part of its description, what class of district it is.

Sec. 8104. The term "district control unit" is defined for the purpose of determining the responsibility for financing district courts. It is an ingenious term of art to clarify the complex problems of district court financing.

Sec. 8105. Detroit is exempted from district courts as it is the only community with a common pleas court.

Sec. 8111 through Sec. 8164. These sections define the districts by geographical boundary, state the class, and specify the election divisions when the district is divided into election divisions, and states the number of judges for each district and the number to be elected from each district or election division.

Sec. 8171. The supreme court is authorized to make recommendations to the legislature on the number of district judges and changes in districts. This language is directory and the supreme court probably has this power anyway.

Procedures, rules and forms for the new court system are in preparation, according to Harold J. Harris, Michigan's new deputy state court administrator for district courts.

All district judges are scheduled to meet with a Michigan Supreme Court committee after their Boyne Mountain conference or indoctrination session. All district court clerks also are to meet in Lansing to go over their duties.

They Labored Hard for District Court Legislation



Gov. Romney hands Rep. Donald E. Holbrook, Jr., one of the pens used to sign the District Court Act.

Others at the ceremony, left to right: Leslie B. Butler, Vice-Chairman, State Bar Committee on Legislation; Robert J. Danhof, the governor's legal advisor; Senator L. Harvey Lodge, Rep. Loren D. Anderson, Rep. James E. O'Neill, Jr., Rep. Hal W. Ziegler, Senator Robert L. Richardson, Jr., then State Bar President John G. Starr, Rep. William V. Weber, Rep. Thomas L. Brown, Probate Judge Boyd C. Baird of Gaylord, State Bar Commissioner Lawrence B. Lindemer; Tom Downs, Chairman, State Bar Committee on Legislation, and Bruce A. Timmons, House judiciary committee research analyst.

Sec. 8181. Each district court shall keep records as prescribed by the supreme court and reports as required by the court administrator. This is a compromise between those who wanted to mandate district courts to use mechanical reporting systems and those who wanted to require court reporters. See also Sec. 8601, 8611, 8331 and 8341.

Sec. 8201. The candidate for district judge must be an attorney and be a registered elector of the district and election division in which he plans to run, except that an attorney from an adjoining district may run if none runs from that district.

Sec. 8202. A district judge shall receive \$18,000 from the state and may have his salary supplemented by the "District control unit" (defined in Sec. 8104) but the total cannot exceed \$27,500.

The supreme court may establish by rule civil and criminal trial divisions providing for rotation of judges within the district.

Sec. 8203. A district judge cannot practice law other than as a judge.

Sec. 8204. Nomination and election shall be by non-partisan ballot.

Sec. 8212. The supreme court is authorized to transfer lawyer judges of the district, circuit, and probate courts to other courts where such need is shown.

A presiding judge of a district may send a judge in his district temporarily to an adjoining district if requested to by the presiding judge of the adjoining district.

Sec. 8221 and 8222. Presiding judges are established for each district, and are authorized to convene judges within their district.

Sec. 8231. An annual conference of the district judges is mandated to be called by the court administrator and additional conferences can be called state-



wide or on a regional basis by order of the supreme court, and the chief justice or his designee shall preside at such meetings.

Sec. 8251. This section mandates where the district court shall sit. Attorneys throughout Michigan can check this section to see if their district courts meet the minimum standards of this section as to time and place of holding court. The presiding judge can order additional places for such judges to sit.

Sec. 8261 through 8281. These sections primarily deal with judicial administration and protection of employee rights of abolished courts. See also Sec. 9922.

Sec. 8301. District courts have exclusive jurisdiction in civil matters up to \$3,000.00.

Sec. 8311. District courts have criminal jurisdiction of all misdemeanors and ordinance and charter violations. They handle preliminary examinations in all felony cases and fix bail and accept bonds.

Sec. 8312. Venue is established in both criminal and civil matters. In civil matters venue in first class districts (defined in Sec. 8103[1]) is in the county where the subject of the action is situated, the cause of action arose, or in which the defendant is established or resides. In districts of the second and third class (defined in Sec. 8103 [2] and [3]), the term district is substituted for county. In any case, if there is more than one defendant, action can be started where there is venue for any one of the defendants.

Sec. 8313 and 8314. Responsibility for prosecution by the prosecuting attorney or attorney for the political subdivision is established and district court probation departments are authorized, but not required.

Sec. 8315. District courts do *NOT* have jurisdiction in actions for injunctions, divorce, or cases that are historically equitable in nature, "except as otherwise provided by law."

Sec. 8316. Marriages can be performed for a fee of \$10, which fee goes to the district control unit.

Sec. 8317. Powers of subpoena, issuing warrants, and contempt are equated with those of the circuit court.

Sec. 8318. The supreme court is specifically authorized to establish rules for pleadings and procedure which can be supplemented by the district courts under supervision of the supreme court. This is consistent with the provisions of the Michigan constitution establishing "one court of justice" (Art. VI, Sec. 1).

Sec. 8321. Civil process is specifically authorized.

Sec. 8331. Recording of proceedings is authorized. See Sec. 8181 also.

Sec. 8341 and 8432. Appeals shall be to the circuit court as a matter or right of all final judgments and other appeals are by application and leaves.

Sec. 8343 and 8345. Transition is provided from present courts to the new district courts, and rights of appeal are guaranteed.

Sec. 8351. Jurors are to be selected according to rules of the supreme court. Presumably, the court will adopt rules consistent with the "key number" system for selecting jurors adopted in 1968 in Public Act No. 326.

Sec. 8353. In civil matters a jury shall consist of six members, with five needed for a verdict.

Sec. 8355. In criminal matters a jury of six is permitted with an unanimous verdict needed for conviction (See comment on Sec. 8101).

Sec. 8361 through 8395. These sections provide for court costs and distribution of fines and costs. A fee of \$2 is required to enter judgment in district court (Sec. 8361), a filing fee of \$10 to commence action if claim is over \$500, otherwise \$5 (Sec. 8371 [1]), but the judge can waive fee if indigency or inability to pay is shown (Sec. 8371 [3]). Costs in district courts can be assessed same as in circuit courts (Sec. 8375). There is a \$3 judgment fee for entry of all criminal convictions and pleas except parking violations (Sec. 8381).

A traffic bureau may be established to accept guilty pleas (Sec. 8391) under specific limitations, and accept fines and costs. A parking violations bureau to accept pleas and retain fines and costs can be established under limited conditions (Sec. 8395).

Sec. 8401 through 8425 – Chapter 84. A detailed small claims division is created. Jurisdiction is limited to civil matters of \$300 or less (Sec. 8401). This chapter in reality makes the district judge an arbitrator whose decision cannot be appealed if the parties agree to such binding arbitration (Sec. 8412, and 8413). An attorney cannot represent either the plaintiff or defendant in the small claims division (Sec. 8408). This provision is subject to attack on constitutional grounds.

Either the defendant or plaintiff can remove the case to a district court before trial and the judge *MUST* advise the parties of this right and also of the rights they waive if they go to trial in the small claims division (Sec. 8408). An attorney who has a client – defendant or plaintiff – who wants to be represented can prepare a form saying such, and have the client present it to the district judge. The attorney could also be present in the court room to see this is done, since the attorney is, at least, not prevented from sitting in open court.

Service can be by person or by certified mail, “return receipt requested and deliverable to the addressee only” (Sec. 8405). This provision also raises questions on what is proper service.

Fees are established in Sec. 8420 and 8361.

Sec. 8501 through 8555 – Chapter 85. A system of magistrates is established. In counties with less than two district judges, the supervisors shall provide one magistrate and in other counties of the first and second class, magistrates shall be provided when recommended by the district judges. Additional magistrates may be provided upon recommendation of the judges. Magistrates are to be appointed by the district judge, with the approval and confirmation of the board of supervisors (Sec. 8501).

This section makes it clear that the magistrate must have the recommendation of the judge in order to be appointed, they serve at the pleasure of the district judge (Sec. 8507), the judges have superintending control over them (Sec. 8541), and appeals can be taken as a matter of right from their decisions within ten days and shall be heard *de novo* (Sec. 8515).

The magistrates have power to arraign; sentence upon pleas for certain misdemeanors where the maximum punishment is not over \$100 or ninety days in jail; issue warrants upon written authorization of prosecuting or city attorney; fix bond and accept bail on criminal cases; issue search warrants when authorized by district judges; act as a circuit court commissioner if an attorney; and may act as a coroner under certain conditions (Sec. 8511).

Their pay is not less than \$5,000 or not less than \$20 a day or \$10 a half-day if paid on a per diem basis. Magistrates may be attorneys, but if so, cannot practice law in the district court for the county or district of the second class (Sec. 8525). Fines and costs received by them are paid to the clerk of the district court (Sec. 8535).

The purpose of the magistrate system is to assure someone geographically close to set bond and handle minor pleas and issue warrants. However, there are



strict limitations to assure that the magistrate operates under the control and supervision of the district judge.

Sec. 8601 through 8635 – Chapter 86. This chapter assures there will be either court reporters or recording devices for each district court, operating under rule of the supreme court (See also Sec. 8611).

Sec. 9921. The following courts are abolished as of January 1, 1969: justices of the peace, circuit court commissioners, police courts, recorder's court of the city of Cadillac. Municipal courts are abolished, unless exempted as provided by Sec. 9928, below. The terms of municipal judges and associate municipal judges expiring before December 31, 1968, are extended to that date.

Sec. 9922. This is a transition provision providing generally that the functions of abolished courts are transferred to the new district courts. A special provision is made for replacing the circuit court commissioners of Wayne County, since Detroit is exempt from the district court system (Sec. 8105). The circuit court of Wayne shall appoint four referees to perform the duties and powers of the circuit court commissioner, and preference in appointment is given to clerks of the circuit court commissioners with 25 years experience. Other referees must be attorneys. Detailed provisions are made to preserve the employment rights of present employees of the circuit court commissioners and bailiffs. See related Sec. 8261 through 8281.

Sec. 9923. Certain full-time elected incumbent municipal judges and associates may become judges of the district court and serve until December 31 of the even numbered year at or after the normal expiration of term. Such judges, when running for election, can have the designation of district judge. This may conflict with Art. VI, Sec. 24 of the constitution of Michigan which provides for judicial designations for elected incumbent judges running for the same office.

The designation was also provided municipal and associate municipal judges running in 1968 for district judge and such designation shall be of the office he holds. This also raises the question of conflict with Art. VI, Sec. 24 of Michigan constitution cited above. There is one case in Macomb County where the circuit court refused such designation.

Sec. 9924. This is another transition section similar to Sec. 9922.

Sec. 9925 through 9927. These three sections make special provisions for the nomination, election, and terms of office for district judges for the 1968 election. Candidates can file with a \$100 filing fee and the term of office shall be from 4 to 8 years, with the judges, in a district or division that has more than one judge, who receive the greatest vote getting the longest terms of office.

Sec. 9928 (1). This subsection provides that in certain cases a community can elect through its governing body to be exempt from the district court and continue their existing municipal court. This is a strict provision and the resolution had to have been adopted by the governing body within seven days of the immediate effect of this act. There is a question as to how a community that has exempted itself can come back into a district court system. This question can probably be solved by a simple amendment in 1969.

The rest of Sec. 9928 prescribes how jurisdiction is continued in a district wherein municipalities representing 50 per cent but not all of the district exempt themselves.

The details of the election system are in a companion bill, Act No. 155, Public Acts of 1968, effective June 17, 1968. Sec. 467c provides for the designation similar to Sec. 9923 of Public Act No. 154. There is also a special provision for removal of a district judge by a concurrent legislative resolution adopted by 2/3 of the members of each house (Sec. 4671 of P. A. No. 155).

Last year's filing for candidates and the nomination and election of district judges proceeded as intended by these two acts, P. A. 154 and P. A. 155 of 1968.

THE FIRST 20 YEARS:
A NARRATED HISTORY

A dissertation, description,
account, statement, report,
expose, summary,
delineation, vignette,
monograph and chronicle
of the first 20 years of the
recorded (and sometimes
unrecorded) epic history
of ...

**THE MICHIGAN
DISTRICT JUDGES
ASSOCIATION**



As narrated by Hisoner S.J. "Sandy" Elden



1968

In the fall of 1968, a new baby was born. Ironically and naturally, the one who was responsible for the birthing was a new female District Judge, the Honorable Alice Gilbert (now a Circuit Judge). She was the founder of the Michigan District Judges Association- she is our Mother!

1969

It officially all began on the Ides of March, 1969, at the now demised Jack Tar Hotel in Lansing. The organizational meeting of the 'Michigan District Judges' was convened by the "Temporary Chair", Alice Gilbert. Sixty-one brand spanking new (and somewhat innocent) District Judges were in attendance. V. Robert Payant, scion of the "uppers", was appointed Temporary Secretary.

Lou Simhauser, acting Rules and Forms Chair, reported that he was working on new District civil forms and John Hammond was developing the criminals. Fred Mather presented the proposed by-laws. Tom Smith, Jim McCann, Jim Mies, Jim Carr and Elmer Hartwig unsuccessfully attempted to insert amendments, but with astute perseverance, the day was carried and the by-laws were adopted.

Elections were held. Alice was elected President; Fred Mather, Veep; V. Bob, Secretary and Roy Gruenburg, Treasurer.

At the Executive Board Meeting in May, Roy reported a bank balance of \$2,650.28. Prexy Alice appointed the following committees:

LEGISLATIVE: Co-Chairs: Jim Clarkson and Ben Franklin; Members: Jim Carr, Roland Duquay, Dick Dunn, Bill Evans, Charlie Golden, Lysle Hall, John Hammond, Bert Heideman, Ken Hempstead, Jim Kelly, Yale Kerby, Bill McManus, Jim Mies, Frank Miltner, John Seiler, Lou Simhauser, Frank Walsh and Woody Yared. MINIMUM COURT STANDARDS: Chair: Clarence Reid; Members: Don Goodwillie, Harold Martin, Bill McManus, John Seiler, Jim Stone, and Bob Wood. PROBATION: Chair: Jim McCann; Members: Basil Baker, Dick Enslin, Elmer Hartwig, and Paul Pollard. PROGRAM: Chair: Harold Hunsberger; Members: Henry Hart, Clark Olmstead, Tom Smith, Harold Steendam and Jim Stelt. PUBLIC INFORMATION: Chair: Ed Farmer; Members: Joe Friske, Ken Glaser, Fred Mather, and John Osgood. RULES: Chair: Mike Hand; Members: Bill Hanna, Jim Stone, Dan Walsh and Bob Wood.

By the August Executive Meeting, it was reported that more than 100 had joined the association. Clarence Reid proposed an allowance of 9 cents per mile for official travel. The Program Committee was asked to seek bids for a meeting to be held in June of next year separate from that called by the Supreme Court.

1970

By the January, 1970 meeting, membership was up to 126 and \$4,113.41 was in the till ... No bids were received to host a



general association meeting in early summer... Ben Franklin reported on a letter received from Bruce Timmons of the Legislative Service Bureau regarding legislative matters (and olde Brucey is still there!). The Public Information Committee reported on arrangements for the publication of a newsletter to be called, "Benchmarks" .

In June, a "separate" general membership meeting did mesmerize. The assemblage was called to order at the (now extinct) Elmwood Casino in Windsor. [The Elmwood was a premier night club.] A lack of quorum prevented official business, but many "interesting reports from committee chairmen" were received and various guests "contributed" a great deal of valuable information. Jim Clarkson reported that some legislators who had helped in the creation of the District Courts reported that they, "had not heard from very many District Judges". Hal Harris, Deputy Court Administrator from SCAO, admonished us that his office was "only there to help us" (that's why Hal took attendance - at the door - at each session of our annual meetings! Dan Walsh, our newly elected representative to the Judicial Tenure Commission, addressed the group.

In October, the "official" annual meeting convened at Boyne Mountain. Membership was now 131 ... The Legislative Committee on a proposal that civil limitation be raised to \$5,000. The recorded vote: 17 were for, 17 against, and nine suggested \$10,000 (ah, such visionaries). Ed Farmer distributed the first edition of "Benchmarks". The 1971 slate of officers was elected with Fred Mather at the helm, Gordon Havey as Vice, Bob Payant as Secretary and Jim Mies as Treasurer.

1971

As we entered into 1971, considerable discussion was held about the problems of mass arrests. Pete Thomassen (an expert after experiences consistent with the riotous life on the U of M Campus) gave a report to the Board at its January meeting. Dick Hammer reported on his plans to make "Benchmarks" a monthly newsletter-mimeograph form. Alice was presented a "beautiful wall clock" suitably inscribed as a token of our appreciation. Dick Dunn, Legislative Chair, spoke of the need to make District Courts courts of record.

In February, Treasurer Mies reported 122 of 166 judges had paid their dues. The Board authorized expense reimbursement at \$10.00 a day for meals and \$17.00 for hotel expense (all that and heaven, too!) ... A continuing thread through many meetings during these times was the desire for authority for us to appoint counsel for indigents in felony cases (we continually lose on that one!).

The 'midyear' meeting convened in Grand Rapids. 87 Judges registered. Educational programs were presented on the first day followed by a Saturday business meeting ... Charlie Stark reported on his proposed index of District Court opinions (and it became a reality!).

In June, Jim Mies reported that the association's L.E.A.A. grant had been approved and educational seminars would begin in the fall. John Seiler, reporting for the Nominating Committee, presented the following nominees: President -Richard Dunn, V.P. - Bob Payant, Secretary - Jim Mies, and Treasurer - Mike Hand.

The annual meeting convened at Boyne Mountain in September. After the usual committee reports, elections were held. Yale Kerby (the renegade from Adrian) organized a group of dissidents and Gordon Havey was elected President by a two-vote margin (this was the first of two revolutions in our history!). Yale strengthened his hand by being elected to the Nominating Committee.

As 1971 came to an end, membership was up to 158 and \$5,016.10 was in the bank. It was decided that attendance at political parties was to be "even handed" with both parties given equal treatment. Dr. John Porter, Superintendent of Public Instruction, called to the attention of our Liaison Committee that county libraries were being short changed by the District Judges with low fines and high costs being levied (perish the thought!) ... Statewide financing was discussed. Mies reported that 14 judges had attended the first educational seminar (we've come a long way since then - eh, Denny?). Dick Dunn reported that our civil jurisdiction was raised to \$10,000.00. (No quid pro quo!)

1972

1972 kicked off with Gordy Havey at the helm. Kerby, now Legislative Chair, reported that the top priority was a salary increase. A motion to support the Bill raising small claims jurisdiction to \$500.00 was soundly defeated. Also down the tubes was a motion to support the provision for magistrates in third class districts.

The annual meeting was held in May at the Grand Hotel. Among the many matters considered was a resolution presented by Mike Hand that the salaries of Judges be paid fully by the State. (The radicals were emerging!) ... Ralph Kohn told of a suit against Wayne County for the salary differential for District Judges sitting by assignment in the Wayne Circuit Court. Clark Olmstead plugged the book he had written on Small Claims. Dean Shipman (the Dean of the Northwoods) gave the Nominating Committee Report. Electors were: V. Bob Payant for Pres., Mies for V.P., Hand for Sec. and Kerby for Treas..



At September's 'mid-year' meeting, the great news was a \$1,000.00 salary increase in the Appropriations Bill. (Things were tough back then!) A Bill was to be introduced making us a court of record ... The hot item was a lawsuit filed by Judge Binkowski to strike the "incumbency" label on election ballots. In a rare showing of unity, it was reported that all three judges associations voted to intervene and split the cost. (That was something! Back then, "unity" was non-existent!)

1973

Bob Payant assumed the Chair in '73. The summary proceedings rules, developed by MDJA, were out and had been highly praised by the Supreme Court. Pat McCauley reported that the District and Circuit Judges had met concerning a new Retirement Bill. Paul Harvey is working on amendments to the Motor Vehicle Code, including a provision for .15 B.A.C. which would result in an 'irrefutable presumption of intoxication' (mind boggling) ... A letter from Sandy Elden was discussed - a copy of which was not attached to the minutes as stated, the contents of which thus remain a mystery. In March, the Board retained a public relations consultant for a six-month trial period to work with Bruce Fox, P.R. Chair. It was recommended by Program Chair Charlie Pratt that the midyear meeting be abandoned in favor of regional meetings - the Board agreed... (The idea went into disrepair!). Paul Harvey reported that his meeting with the House Judiciary was cordial. The Bill for state financing of courts (and to abolish Municipal Courts) was in draft form (and there was much draft!).

In June, we recorded 155 (out of 171) members. The "Courts of Record" Bill was on its way to the Governor. Verne Boewe, Rules and Forms Chair, reported that he is working on small claims forms and Paul Wright is working on claim and delivery forms. The draft of the Retirement Bill provided for retirement at 60 after 20 years, 65 after 16 years and 70 after 12. It was suggested that provision be made for cost of living increments.

The annual meeting was at the Grand Hotel. At the Board meeting, Kerby moved that the matter of political contributions by judges be deleted from the agenda until the Supreme Court acted on the proposed new canons of ethics. A resolution supported statewide financing was adopted. The annual meeting report appears to have disappeared, but we are advised by Al Horrigan that after the annual meeting party, Dale Riker made an offer to Justice Kavanaugh to trade his 2,000 cases for the Supreme Courts 250 cases. Dale was later awarded the foot-in-mouth trophy. At the November meeting, Justice Williams reported on the status of state financing of courts (not too much status as it turned out!). Our P.R. firm reported on the new format for "Benchmarks"- advertising rates were established and the new logo approved.

.....

Highlight of the year was our christening as a court of record (holy, holy, holy). Kudos to Hammond and Timmons!

1974

Newly installed Prexy, Jim Mies, convened the January, 1974, meeting of directors. A resolution was adopted expressing good wishes to retiring Hal Harris and the new SCAO rep., John Mayer, was welcomed. Kerby reported that the Retirement Bill, "is now under serious modification" (I think he meant mortification). Rules Chair, Bill McManus, reported on a proposal to have "one set" of court rules.

The minutes promulgated by Secretary Kerby were very cryptic and they divulge only basic information for the year; however, a consistent report was that salary and retirement matters were in trouble!

From John Mayer's SCAO report, it was obvious that the Supreme Court was taking firm hold of our annual meeting. Separate association meetings were abandoned.

The annual meeting convened that August at Boyne Highlands. Program Chair, Al Horrigan, reported that the Center for the Administration of Justice would be putting on a 1 1/2-day educational seminar to be combined with the installation of officers. Bill McManus, expressed his disappointment in the Supreme Court's failure to act on any of the proposed rules submitted ... Salary and Retirement Chair, Jerry McNally, gave the 'usual' report on the progress (?). President Jim reported that we had lost the Wayne County Salary case.

Elected for 1975 were: Pres., Mike Hand; V.P., Yale Kerby; Secretary, Woody Yared; and Treasurer, Al Horrigan. Russ Bradley and John Spires were elected to the Nominating Committee.

In November, Legislative Chair, John Roskopp, reported that the State Financing Bill was in trouble (and continued to be forever!). A salary raise of \$2,000.00 is being proposed - to be financed by raising the judgment fee from \$4.00 to \$5.00. (Extra funds raised would go to legislative and judicial retirement-another of Hammond's clever devices). The 'Retirement Bill' was reportedly in trouble in Dick Young's subcommittee. (So what's new?)

1975

President-elect, Mike Hand, presided at the January Board Meeting. Joining the board as a new member was a chap by the name of Don Goodwillie. (Don gained fame in South Haven when he saved a drowning person during a Lake Michigan storm of great intensity.)



He gained fame with MDJA as the architect of substantial pay raises - a task of great intensity.

The P.R. contract was zapped. Jim Stone was appointed on the Liaison Committee to coordinate mutual efforts with the Probates and Circuits ... Dues were set at \$45.00. The budget for 1975 was in the incredible sum of \$7,200.00.

In February, Bob Payant was promoted "Benchmarks" Editor ... Program Chair, Bob Crary, and Rules Chair, John Osgood, were both absent. Thus, no reports! ... State financing appeared to be doomed because of the state's dire financial condition. The 2 1/2-year battle on judicial salaries appeared to be headed for the graveyard.

In April, Prexy Mike reported on a letter from Circuit Judge Stu Hoffious about an offer by the State Bar to pay the cost of the services of Tom Downs who would act as legislative agent for all three associations. The matter was deferred. Chuck Osgood reported on the continuing problem of the use (or misuse) of superintending control by the Circuits.

In June, Legislative Chair Goodwillie reported that Rep. Rosenbaum (House Judiciary Chair) and Sen. Brown (Senate Judiciary Chair) would support State Financing. However, he recommended a Salary Bill which would pay District Court judicial salaries at 90% of Circuit Judges. A bill was drafted by Hammond. The deal was cemented on a 'fishing trip' on Don's ship "Sue Ya". (No pay - no docking!) The Bill was voted down by the House, but after intense lobbying by many members, we prevailed - 13 votes were changed! A significant item in the new Bill was the "tie-bar"! But, the battle was not yet over! The MJA (the Circuit bench) went to work on a veto! But it was going to be too little, too late (the 'Circuits' never expected the governor to sign the Bill).

The annual meeting opened at the Kalamazoo Center in July. The usual reports were received. Ed Lawrence proposed that the association pay for a study of the investment policy and procedures relating to our pension funds (Ed's own analysis showed a paualtry 3% income from investments!).

The Nominating Committee presented the names of: Kerby for President, Yared for V.P., Horrigan for Secretary and Hall for Treasurer. At this time, revolution #2 took place. Elden placed the name of Goodwillie for President and he was elected by a vote of 93 to 22. The other nominees were all duly elected.

In honor of the upcoming bicentennial, Ben Franklin was named "1976 Honorary President" ... Elden was named Forms Chair (and thus started the coup resulting in 8 1/2 x 11 plain language forms understood by all except lawyers!).

As the year ebbed, we found some progress on the Salary Bill; Frank Walsh and Gordon Doherty were appointed to a task force to study job descriptions and pay scales for court personnel; and the State Bar declined the proposal to appropriate equal funds to the three judicial associations. They reiterated their offer to fund a single lobbyist.

Dues were raised to \$50.00 (inflation struck!). The following chairs were approved: Legislative - Fred Grimm, Jr.; Rules and Forms - Paul Wright; Program - Bob Bell; Public Information - Bill Evans; and "Benchmarks" - Chuck Mosier.

In passing, it is noted that this was the time in our history when we, as an organization, became very active on the political scene. We kept in close touch with our legislators, attended many individual and party functions, and became a political force to be reckoned with - respected by those on the Lansing hill.

1976

Newly installed President, Skipper Goodwillie, was at the helm in '76. The number one celebration was over the passage of PA 1975, No. 324 - the Salary Bill which was given immediate effect as of the first of the year. Kudos to the many prime movers who discovered that good relationships on the hill pay off! A final report of the great salary battle: a call was placed to John Roskopp by Governor Milliken at Christmastime, '75 to ask John's opinion as to whether he should sign the Bill (remember, the Circuits urged a veto). The Gov. was referred to the house and when John's daughter answered the phone, she told the Governor that Daddy wasn't there and that he didn't work on Friday afternoons. Needless to say, when JoHanna found out who the caller was, she got the tracking dogs out and the day was saved after she found J.R.. He said, "Sign."

In February, Russ Baugh, our new SCAO rep. was introduced. Guesting was Mr. Robert Lewis who gave his qualifications to serve as a "Legislative Liaison" (such a fancy term!). Mike Hand informed the group that the Supreme Court was opposed to professional lobbying for judicial bodies. He also reported that the State Bar voted down the proposition to pay for lobbying costs (what happened to the Hoffious letter?). The bar also declined to lower dues for judges as requested.

President Don explained his program to assist the Wayne Circuit Bench crash program. Russ Baugh assured us that the Supremes would cover all necessary expense!

Because of the animosities that arose between the benches as a result of the salary dispute, MDJA bankrolled a special two-day meeting and a rather cosmopolitan group gathered at South Haven that May. Special guests included Hon. Bob Danhoff of the Court



of Appeals (a wool-dyed Wolverine Fan); Jim Canham, Presiding Judge, Wayne Circuit; Fred Borchard, President of M.J.A.; Rep. Rosenbaum and Einar Bohlin, Supreme Court Administrator (a royal gathering!!). It is noted that along with his role as President, Don was serving as our unpaid "Legislative Consultant" (another fancy term!).

In July, the Board struggled through considerable discussion on the proposed arraignment and plea rule. After many attempts, we voted to address the Supreme Court regarding our dissatisfaction with the rule (DCR 785). Due to financial constraints, the proposal to retain a legislative agent was dropped.

In July, we again gathered at the Grand. Reports were given in due form concluding with Gene Zinn's, annual and eloquent necrology report. Ed Lawrence made his usual inquiry about the funding of a pension fund study. (Ed's incisive reports were never well received, but he was absolutely correct about the need for reform!).

Nominated for office for '77 were Woody Yared (President), Al Horrigan (Vice-President), Lysle Hall, Jr. (Secretary) and Robert Bell (Treasurer). Net funds zoomed to \$13,659.74.

Extensive work was being done by Fred Grimm and the Legislative Committee. About 25 members were active and they not only analyzed Bills, but they drafted some 17 Bills which were introduced.

The final meeting of the year convened in November. The matter of attachment moratoriums during holidays was discussed (and is still being discussed!). Al Magnotta was appointed Retirement Chair with the challenge to get some movement! ... The Board recessed until 1977. Thanks to Al Horrigan for a resplendent set of minutes.

1977

Woody Yared assumed command in 1977. (He retired as a Circuit Judge a few years ago and is now back in the trenches practicing law (Ughhh!)) As memory has it, this was the year a fine was levied against MDJA by the Elections Commission because of our failure to file the report on expenditures effecting the election of legislators. (In recognition of this and other excellent attributes, Treasurer Bell was later relegated to the Circuit bench; then on to the Federal Bench!)

The annual meeting was at Boyne Highlands. Under Woody's direction, photographs were taken of our judges for posterity, for picture I.D.s and a picture roster (Note: Bob Cunningham resolutely declined to be photographed and held off until retirement).... Justice Ryan was our mascot and our banquet speaker was Eddie Guest, Jr. - Michigan's Poet Laureate. (But the Supreme

.....

Court really didn't like us having a 'non-judicial' speaker and we were scolded for that!)

Woody set the tone for installation of officers during his term. Gracious affairs, black tie, spouses (or significant others) and precious porcelain roses for the ladies.

1978

Big Al Horrigan (co-founder of the Mid-Michigan Judges Marching and Chowder Society) took over in '78.

Matters of state got under way at a delayed meeting (the blizzard of '78 intervened). As Payant moved on the Circuit bench, he was replaced by Jim McCann on the Legislative Committee. Charlie Stark (recently elevated to Circuit) was slotted to chair our Liaison Committee with the Supreme Court, Lysle Hall was our rep. to the Judicial Section of the State Bar and Woody as Liaison with M.J.A..

Committee Chairs appointed were: Program: Jim McCann and Dave Gee; Traffic Laws: Don James; Pension/Retirement: Gordon Doherty; Minimum Court Standards: Bill Easton; Legislative: Don Goodwillie and Fred Grimm, Jr.; Public Information: Ron Taylor, and Rules and Forms: Sandy Elden.

Prexy Al gave a report on state assumption of salaries. The good news was a joint meeting held in December of '77 with the Circuits (the Probates were no-shows). It was agreed that a joint effort was mandated. The bad news was the usual no-progress report!

Benchmarks Editor, Joe Burtell, reported on a "vacation time" survey (Beware: ten years later, it is surfacing again). Dave Forshee opposed any limit (that's my man!); Ken Hempstead suggested 30-working days.

V.P. Hall reported on the progress in the formation of the Judicial Section of the State Bar. Goodwillie reported on the Bill to remove the \$12,500 supplemental salary limitation on local control units. ... Elden reported that L & T Rule 754 was in final draft form.

The board voted to require prior approval before tickets were purchased for "fund raisers". Dues were raised to \$70.00 and Treasurer Shipman reported 222 paid members.

Before the year was out, decriminalization of traffic laws became a reality (the high-point of '78!). The low point had to be the annual meeting at the Dearborn Hyatt. Justice T. G. Kavanaugh and Einor Bohlin made it clear that the Supreme Court was going to run our annual meetings and select locales (budget



problems was the excuse). Further, the high court didn't want education programs! - business only! The minutes reflect that later a lively discussion was led by Horrigan on the "purpose, duration and location of annual meetings." Believe me, that's a gross understatement. The Dearborn meeting was a debacle -Horrigan was crushed and burning with anger.

A sidelight: the annual meeting banquet, paid for by MDJA had a meager attendance. Al discovered we had paid for many dinners which were not served. McCann entered into negotiations and by year end a settlement was reached. We paid \$30.00 for the steaks and sold them off to members at a good profit!

The election results were: Lysle Hall for President, Dean Shipman for Vice-President, Jim McCann for Secretary and S.J., your scribe, for Treasurer.

As the year wound down and last we met, State Bar staff member, Mike Karowski, was introduced. He was assigned to work with MDJA.

1979

As we launched our second decade "in esse", Lysle Hall captained the ship [note that Hizoner L.H., in the last 20 years, has probably been more active as an officer in MDJA than any other bencher] . . . to cover our flanks (and faux faux), Don James was appointed to file all campaign finance law required documents. Elden presented a \$13,500 budget, \$850.00 of which was for the annual conference (that's about the cost of our current "entertainment package"). Dues were reduced to \$60.00! . . . Dave Gee took over as Editor of "Benchmarks".

Dean Shipman suggested that we invest our funds in the "Fidelity Daily Interest Fund" of Boston (10% return). (A dull silence ensued.)

As spring came, we discussed our annual meeting speaker. The question of payment arose. SCAO announced a \$300.00 limit on the condition that a 'judicial topic' be discussed. . . . John Seiler reported on the problem of Wayne Circuit remands without regard to venue (we won that one eventually).

Priorities for state take-over were discussed. The state proposed the following: (1) taking over jury fees, (2) reimbursement for appointed counsel, (3) capitol improvements, (4) funding for salaries. The board rejected the proposal until some meaningful steps were taken on uniform salaries.

Hall reported on his meeting with Leo Farhat, State Bar President. Farhat accepted full responsibility for defeat of the Bill to fund pension increases out of increased filing fees.

Since the bar itself did not consider this, Farhat agreed to a reconsideration.

Chief Justice Mary Coleman kicked off our annual meeting. She held forth that full state funding was expected by '85.

Elected to serve in 1980 were: Dean Shipman, President; Jim McCann, V.P.; Sandy Elden, Secretary and Don James, Treasurer. Wally Paruk and Mike Hand were elected to the Nominating Committee (it's interesting to note that sometimes we elected and sometimes we appointed the Nominating Committee - the by-laws require election. On some occasions we couldn't remember who the nominators were!).

Goodwillie reported that as of January 1, 1980, base salaries would be raised to \$29,950.00. In addition, local supplements can be made up to \$8,350.00; \$2,250.00 could be counted toward State Pension ...

Elden reported all but five District Judges were now members (They were persistent decliners. Only one remains: Harry Newblatt. Others were defeated or retired.)

Rumblings began to discontinue dues payments to the State Bar ... Dues were raised to \$75.00. ... The Bill to raise small claims to \$1,000.00 would reportedly not come out of committee (It eventually slipped out and became engorged) ... Yupper Dick Cellelo, Jim McCormick, Dick Riordan and Bill Cannon were appointed to our Public Information Committee (a/k/a lobbyists). They will assist old timers Goodwillie, Hall, Horrigan and McCann with legislation matters ..., '79 faded into the sunset.

1980

Here we are in the nuclear '80's with "Captain" Dean Shipman in command (USN, ret.). Committee Chairs designated were: Legislative: Ron Taylor; Rules: Bob Anderson, Public Information: Don Goodwillie; Ad Hoc - Standard Jury Instructions: John Hammond (all now Circuits!); Program: Fred Grimm, Jr.; "Benchmarks": Dave Gee; Ad Hoc - Government Liaison: Bill McManus; and Ad Hoc-Salary/Pensions: Paul Harvey.

[Author's Note: The minutes for 1980 may not be famous for clarity, but they are "Guinesseese" for the verbosity. It's not that so much happened, but that "Sandy" took so many pages to say it!]

Of dubious distinction was the passage of the Chief Judge rule (to deal with the problem of intramural arguments). ... In discussing time off, Goodwillie suggested that vacation guidelines apply to all of us - top to bottom! ... On Don James resolve, the



concept of Radar guidelines was supported ... Prexy Dean reported on the State Bar's rejection of 'letter-sized forms' (our battles with the state continued) ... He then gave his usual lengthy report.

As spring rolled by, Don James expressed his concern about the 18 cents per mile reimbursement. He feared depletion of our assets (old cautious Don!) ... Bob Anderson reported on the R & F Committee's best form: Bo Derek as outlined in the March issue of PLAYBOY ... Due to a siege of mono, Program Chair Fred Grimm was sidelined and Mike Merritt was asked to take over ... McCann announced that the great metropolis of Livonia would supply MDJA with plastic name tags (Elden suggested maize and blue!) ... Goodwillie announced agreement on court, including Common Plea's merger with the Districts and Records administratively merged with the Circuits ... President Dean gave his usual lengthy report.

The 'spring' minutes were unusually dull as S.J. was not present ... Lysle suggested a wives' program at our annual meeting (now we have 'spouses' programs!) ... It was announced that the annual meeting (up north) was cancelled due to the state's financial difficulties ... President Dean, on that note of despair, gave his usual lengthy report.

In the July meeting, Lysle, as Chair of the "Judicial Section of the State Bar", gave a grim report on that groups attempt to free itself from the shackles of the State Bar. It was resolved that 75% of our dues should be earmarked for the "section" ... The Board voted to support appeal of the adverse decision in the Saginaw Public Library case (re: diversion of "fines" into "costs") ... Guests from the Circuit and Probate bench were aboard and it was the general consensus that we all support "court reorganization" (Caveat: even though we voiced support, many of us were suspicious as being done in down the pike!)

Ben Friedman took over the reign as Legislative Chair and in anticipation, gave a comprehensive report on pending matters (i.e. H.B. 5425 which attempted to define 'serious impairment'. Dean S. suggested "marriage"). Also discussion was held on the drunk driving package which contained a controversial section of a .10% BAC 'per se' violation (WOW!) ... Court reorganization went down by one vote in the legislature.

July 30, 1980, was certainly the "low point" of annual meetings (even lower than Dearborn); about 1/2 of our dispirited brethren met for a one-day meeting in Lansing. New Judges Mike Russell, Harry Titus, Paul Deats, George Steeh and Tom Roberts were introduced ... Options of the '81 convocation: A Lansing repeat for one day or a three-day "pay-it-yourselfer" on Mackinac. The vote: 13 for Lansing, 101 for the Island! ... Elected for next year were: Jim McCann, President; Sandy Elden, V.P.; Don James, Recorder, and John Hammond, Bursar. Bruce Fox and Gil

Zitzelsberger were elected as the Nominators for '81. President Dean gave his usual lengthy report.

At the September meeting, it was conceptually agreed that the Circuits and Districts would hold a joint 'pay-your-own-way' annual meeting next year ... it was announced that a "regenerative organizational" meeting of the "Judicial Section" would be held later this month. The Past Pres., Prexy and Veep will attend. A letter recommending Don James for his 'substantial sensitivity to woman's issues' was read into the minutes ... Bob Anderson reported on the 2,000 page report on the proposed Michigan Court Rules.

By October, 207 of us were paying dues (seven holdouts). The annual report on the \$300.00 fine for the 1978 violation of the campaign reporting act was presented. Bill McManus was designated to represent MDJA at the State Officers Compensation hearing and Bob Fink was appointed to the Ethics Committee.

As the year closed out, court reorganization was again in the grave (alas poor Yorik) ... State election results revealed five of our incumbents defeated! ... Major events of the year were the merging of the District and Common Plea Courts and the Pay Bill tying in our salaries with that of the Supreme Court. Good stuff engineered by Goodwillie, assisted by Hammond and other good members! By virtue of Don's virtuosity as our legislative agent, he was able to elevate the 84% to 88%. To conclude 1980, President Dean gave his usual lengthy report on the State of the Judiciary.

1981

High-living, free spending Jim McCann presided in '81. We all enjoyed his impecunious nature. ... Wally Paruk took over as "Benchmarks" Editor, Marv Frankel as Rules and Forms Chair and Don Neitzel as Chair of Standard Jury Instructions. Other committee assignments remained the same.

Our Judicial Section reps. reported some progress. Jerry Barr (Probate); current Chair, made a formal proposal for the Bar to allocate \$46,000 a year for the section budget (eventually adopted). ... The annual discussion was held on contributing to individual legislators versus 'group' contributions - and as usual, there was no resolve ... The budget for '81: \$21,000 ... Shipman reported that our amicus curiae brief in the "Library Association" case was lost! Egad!!

As we rolled into spring, a new spirit of cooperation amongst the judiciary pervaded. The Judicial Section is bankrolled (MDJA budget = \$7,000). M.J.A. awaited the MDJA position on whether to support a raise in civil jurisdiction to \$20,000 (it's hard to believe all these goodies!) and MDJA said, "Yes!!" ... Ben Fried-



man's Legislative Committee spearheaded opposition to the proposal to raise small claims all the way up to \$1,200 (deemed detrimental to the man on the street!) ... Good news: as of 1/1/82, our collegial group will sustain a 14% pay increase, the new state salary is \$34,155 (and a chicken in every pot!) ... Paul Harvey's Pension Committee recommends a plan comparable to that of the State Legislature ... Bill McManus reports that his Liaison Committee is now meeting with the JDC, DNR, SOS and MSP (no NRA?) ... Neitzel reported that his S.J.I. Committee concludes that jury instructions are too legalese and should be redone in layman's language. The board agreed (let's resurrect that one!).

At the summer Board meeting, final arrangements were made for the Mackinac Grand Tour. Prexy Jim invited the Board members to attend the President's Cocktail Party (for MDJA and MJA boards). He assigned each the responsibility to bring to the island the necessary ingredients required for classy cocktail parties (McCann style!) ... Hammond's Treasurer's Report: "Took in a bunch, spent a heap, and have a pile left." (NOTE: This was the shortest report ever given by J.H. on any subject, anytime!)

In August, 68 District Judges (and an unknown number of Circuits) met on the island for our first 'Joint Judicial Annual Conference'. New judges introduced were George Begole, Tom Brennan, Bob Bright, Harold Bulgarelli, Bob Carr, Ken Post, Dan Sawicki, Jim Sheehy, Harvey Varnum, Sherwin Venema, and Doug Voss (my that was a bright class!). Mike Hand gave a necrology report for six departed members. After the usual committee reports extolling virtues for activities of the past, elections were held and results were: Sandy Elden, President; Don James, Vice-President; John T. Hammond, Secretary; Michael Merritt, Treasurer, and the nominator's for '82: Roger La Rose and Jim Stone.

As fall approached, rumors were circulating that Step 2 of state takeover of court financing wasn't going to happen (it was really a case of true confessions!) ... Tentative expense for the annual meeting: \$4,500. (I forewarned you all that McCann had class!) ... Winter is upon us, hot on the agenda was one of our coldest subjects - retirement. Hammond has put together one of his complicated fee schedule endowments for funding. Bob Danhof (Chief Judge, MCA) was on board expressing his support ... Bill Cannon, new Program Chair designate, will work on another joint annual conclave at the Grand Traverse Hilton ... Joel Mills was appointed to a committee on codification of DNR and conservation laws (I think we're still waiting for that report?).

1982

1982 - S. J. "Sandy" Elden captained the good ship MDJA- and wouldn't you believe that is the year that our recorder, John Hammond apparently shredded the minutes covering up some strange, yet unknown scandal. When you reach the age of your author, the

memory dims and details slip into the ethereal past. But it was a grand year. S.J. was a disciple of the McCann era and there was nothing too good for the District Judges. Quality of service and efforts continued to be the hallmark of MDJA. That's the year we took over the Presidential Suite at the Grand Hotel.

James, Hammond, and Merritt were each "elevated" in the "line of chairs" and the scion of the downriver communities, Gil Zitzelsberger, took over as the Chancellor of the Exchequer's slot.

A few new faces were on 'board': Cynthia Stephens, that dynamic young lady from Detroit took over as Information Chair, Pete O'Connell from the tribal lands of Mt. Pleasant became Program Chair and representing the north woods, Jim McCormick took over "Benchmarks".

Among the highlights of the year was our sponsorship of a new Benchguides book of special interest to our bench and of significant importance, the passage of the new 'reform' Drunk Driving Bill (per se intoxication/screening, et al).

1983

Another sailor at the helm in '83 - Donald E. James that hard-working, intense fella from Kazoo. At his first Board meeting, serious discussions were held on priorities for the year - including Elden's 'strong' recommendation that we hire a 'consultant' to represent our interests in Lansing ... Mike Batchik reported on his meeting with M.A.C. (Michigan Association of Counties) regarding that festering matter known as the 'Saginaw Library Case' (they proved strong adversaries, but in later years, good friends!).

We authorized a letter of solicitation to our members to set up a special "LawPac" fund ... After considerable thought, we voted to eliminate that bad word "LawPac" from our vocabulary. Frank Blomgren, Secretary of State Rep., talked of clean up legislation for the new OUIL statute (after six years that discussion is still going on).

As stormy March arrived, MDJA did vote to hire a legislative agent; Crim and Assoc. got the nod at a figure "not to exceed \$1,000.00 per month". That looked plausible as we now had some 40 grand in the bank! ... We voted not to support H.B. 4253 (assaulting Senior Citizens) in its present form (as one who is now eligible for social security, I move to reconsider!) ... Community Service Immunity was also discussed (and is still being discussed)(and will continue to be discussed in the future!).

In May, Bob Vanderlaan and a good looking guy named Steve Stanley met with us. They were from Governmental Consultants, (formerly Crim & Assoc.) - our agents on the hill ... Neitzel reported on the prospective elimination of the District Court



Rules and their merger into something to be known as Michigan Court Rules. (I always felt that we might consider elimination, not only of DCR, but also GCR and MCR!)

Sugarloaf was designated as our annual meeting site and Delores O'Brien met with us to go over 'details'. (Delores was a whiz at annual meeting details and was our official SCAO meeting liaison for years on end!) The raconteur of laugh, S.J., was engaged to emcee. On the Treasurer's report item, \$4,340.00 went into line 113, \$4,000.00 was added to 005, 113 was amended to include \$9,000.00 and \$1,300.00 was transferred from 105 to 106. (If you have any questions, contact Gil in Florida. That's just what his report said!)

At the annual meeting, of great interest was the report that through the singular efforts of our legislative agents, our state salaries were raised \$2,475.00; our potential gross: \$65,120.00. Mandatory pass through was discussed ... Gil resigned as Treasurer to take on an assignment as Executive Director of Kiwanis International. ... Hammond and Hall were the heroes of the day after they squelched the fire in the soup tureen! ... Nominated for office in '84 were Hammond as President, Merritt as Vice-President, Bill Cannon for Secretary and Roger La Rose for Treasurer (the yuppies were taking over!). Pat Donahue (the Red Baron) and Bill Kelly were elected to the Nominating Committee. ... Methinks that in '83, Al Lynch (Supreme Commissioner) took pictures of the judges for the high court. We really had a battle trying to get some copies, but to little avail.

In the fall, state financing was still on the agenda. The board suggested that the Supremes must assume the leadership roll if we were going to move forward ... Bill McManus reported that the long and protracting battle with OSAS (over designation of Probation Departments as screening agencies) had been resolved (amen!)... Good news was reported: Marilyn Hall (current SCAO Chief) has graduated from law school! (an appropriate gift was presented)... S.J. and Odie were anointed the associations' Directors of Hospitality at the State Bar meeting (and have not yet been unanointed).

In the fall, Hizoner Dan Walsh took over the SCAO duties ... Judicial Liability insurance was discussed (at length). The Chief (Soapy) wants one state policy for all judges! ... Denise Hood was selected for the Judicial Conference panel (replacing Zitzelsberger) ... Regular meetings with the Chief Justice were now in fashion. They proved to be very fruitful ... Raising small claims to \$1500.00 was on the agenda; we moved to limit the raise to \$1,000 (we keep getting beaten down on those small claims Bills!).

As the year wound down, state-wide financing of courts was constantly on the agenda. It is debateable as to which item has had a longer tenure on our agenda, retirement or state financing ... The fine and cost schedule developed by Elden's Ad Hoc group was distributed (with major credit to Joel Mills!) ... Prexy-elect Hammond appointed committee chairs for next year: Arney Mustonen - Public Information; Bill Kelly and Jim Ward - Rules; Paul Harvey - Retirement; Mike Batchik - Govt. Liaison; S.J.-Program; and Cynthia Stephens, Lysle Hall and Ken Long (the Troika!) - Legislative! ... and the snows fell upon us!

1984

John T. (for Tiger) Hammond was at last rewarded for his countless years of service to MDJA and in January, '84, was installed as President (... and we survived!) ... Per D. James, a policy was adopted that all meeting guests must get first approval by the President before being invited to attend. (Can't figure that one out!) ... Legislative considerations included increasing magistrates authority, community service immunity, pensions and the OUIL Bill 'clean-up'.

In February, the Board reorganization plan was presented (promulgated at Pete O'Connell's urging). Introduced was a new provision for popularly elected regional directors and a cap of 15 members on the board ... Margaret Schaeffer gave the legislative report (not much excitement!) ... Steve Conley, new SCAO associate was introduced.

Other activities of note in the spring and summer: at Margaret Schaeffer's urging, we agreed to have judges available for testimonial purposes before the legislature (velly, velly effective!) ... Kelly announced that the committee work on the new "Michigan Court Rules" is done and on its way to the Supreme Court. He reported that the work on the new criminal rules is also completed. (They should have been kept in committee!) ... Jim McCormick reported that George Van Kula filed a suit challenging the pay differential between his court and the 36th.

At the annual meeting in July at Mackinac, the new MDJA reorganization plan was adopted - after a lively and spirited debate. ... Officers were elected for 1985: Merritt - President, Cannon - V.P., La Rose - Secretary, and Don Neitzel - Treasurer. Nominators elected were Tom Brennan, Jr., and Alex Allen.

In August, keeping the summer spirit, we gathered at Burroughs Farm (Brighton). The Board had one of its frequent discussions about establishing semi-annual meetings. The Supreme Court mandated meeting would be held in January - strictly business (no spouses, no socializing and no fun). The vote was 5 to 5. On discovering that two attendees were without vote, a new poll showed a vote of 4 to 4 (oh, well; you can't win them all!)



The post-November election meeting found a record new 24 District Judges ... Pres. John reported on the meeting with the Chief Justice. #1 item (you might have guessed) was a new and equitable retirement package.

PAC discussions continued. The three vital questions appear to be ethicsability, deductibility and mechanicsability! ... Hammond wrapped up his year at the January, '85, meeting at the Hyatt in Dearborn. Removals from Circuit to District was a hot item. Jim Ward, appointed a committee of one, came up with a resolution. Mediator's would come up with a "settlement evaluation" and then determine if "actual damages" exceeded our jurisdiction (the essence of the problem is that the mediators discombobulate the rules!). ... and so John mounted his horse and headed west into the sunset - and we survived.

1985

President Mike (Seven Seas) Merritt took over and presided at a meeting with a distinguished panel of Secretary of State officers including the boss, Richard Austin. Secretary Austin said that he expected the mandatory seat belt law to pass. We pledged full support ... Charles Felice, Lansing bencher, was asked to be our spokesperson before Legislative Committee meetings. SOCC provided a 5% increase (the cheques are beginning to look good!) ... Joel Mills, Hugh Black and Nancy Blount were appointed as liaison to the Secretary of State. Ed Farmer and Bill Haley will serve on the OUIL Task Force ... the budget for this year: \$38,100.00.

In March, Bill Cannon started a campaign to locate all the missing by-laws of MDJA (our 20-year history records afford little help) ... Pres. Mike has met with key legislators and reports no "real opposition" to the concept of state financing, but the Governor's support continues to be the missing ingredient! Our Chief met with the Governor, the Chief (Soapy) and other key judges. Response: no commitment.

April brought showers and according to Jerry Brock, Legislative Co-Chair, a proposed raid on court fees for prison construction. We vigorously opposed the dedication of fees for anything!! (Well, maybe excluding pensions!) ... Ken Post is lining up Father Quinn (Sacred Heart founder) for the annual meeting ... Don Neitzel presented a resolution to support the "anti-Pulliam" Bill in Congress. (My friends, write your congress people - a Bill is still there!)

May: S.J., acting secretary, reported that the minutes were unavailable, undesirable and unacted upon ... Mike reported that Dennis Archer, State Bar President has given outstanding support to "standardization of judicial salaries" ... Our worthy President also reports a spinning of wheels on the dilemma of the political

contributions to legislator fundraisers. It goes like this: (1) Canons say judges can't endorse partisan candidates, (2) Judicial Tenure Commission says a judge can make contributions, (3) an informal ethics opinion says MDJA can't do it, and (4) the State Bar did not adopt that opinion. (That is an abbreviated condensation of a 27-page report.) ... The Saginaw Library case is rearing its head again. We are advised that the Chief Justice has been called upon to address this grievance about the imbalance between fines () and costs () ... Bill Kelly, Rules Chair, expressed concern over the proposed Criminal Rules revision that mandates court availability 365 days a year! (we did not heed this Bill!)

Summertime and who shows up as SCAO Chief - our own V. Bob Payant. The big news is the provision for a 20% increase in the state contribution to judges' salaries in the proposed state budget (no wonder all those civilians are running against incumbent judges!). Pass through would be required! ... Wally Paruk is working up the figures for increased retirement benefits. ... Perennial Legislative Chair Hall championed opposition to the bill to use drivers licenses (in addition to voting lists) for juror lists! (We lost that one too!!) ... Bill Cannon has caused his perception of our by-laws to be forever emblazoned in our picture roster ... Merritt reported that we forgot to elect nominators last year (history repeats!) ... Hammond moved that any MDJA member who has at least ten years of service, and who retires, shall receive an appropriate plaque (\$25.00 or less) (though this noble motion passed, I hazard that it has never been implemented!).

Boyne Mountain hosted our annual meeting. Presiding Chair Mike launched the plan for setting up a PAC, calling on our members to contribute \$5.00 per pay into the fund to be housed in a credit union (cash would be acceptable).

The luxurious Omni in Detroit was the site of our Detroit Board gathering held in conjunction with the State Bar meet. Rep. Dick Young told us about all the nice things the legislature has done for the judiciary (Remember - look at it relatively!) ... Elden, Judicial Conference Chair, appointed the "Danhof Committee" to come forth with a consensus Retirement Bill. Three judges from each judicial group were appointed. Goals will include Cola, increased standardization, optional medical, 50% of pay after 12 years, 60% after 16 and 70% after 20 (we might live with that.)

Senator Rudy Nichols addressed our October meeting. He outlined some good ideas on how we should approach presentations on our "retirement package" ... Approved was a recognition for those judges who contributed to Merritt's "Education Fund" (Don Johnson's description: "the Slush Fund").



Senator John Engler guested at November's conclave. The minutes noted that Pete O'Connell's introduction was longer than the Senator's remarks. The Senator encouraged substantial financial contributions. To summarize his presentment, it was non-committal ... A rather lengthy Legislative Committee report revealed support for a host of Bills (alas, an analysis reveals that nary one has been enacted!)

Gracing our table at year's end was Rep. Mary Brown, House Retirement Committee Chair. A resume of her remarks: not encouraging ... Merritt reported that the Chief Justice requested that MDJA nominate five judges for the new Delay Reduction Committee. (This was a significant happening in our history as it is not too often that the C.J. consults us regarding appointments!) Hall and committee met earlier in the day with reps. from the Secretary of State's Office and Sen. Sederburg's staff to go over the OUIL Reform Bill. With a meager nine changes, the Board voted support (you must realize that real reform takes a long time - short of revolution!).

Rep. Virgil Smith - one of the architects of State Financing of Courts - spoke at President Merritt's final Board meeting. The truth, according to Rep. Smith, is that a \$27 million price tag and lack of support from the Governor appear to doom "state financing" ... (Dire forebodings!) Payant told us of the Supreme Court's new "Program to Improve the Courts". (Dire forebodings!!) Roy Cicotte presented the budget for 1985: \$51,500.00 (my, oh my).

1986

Newly installed President, Bill Cannon (he's much older than he looks!) presided over the kickoff for '86. Rog La Rose was upped to V.P., Olde Don Neitzel moved up to Secretary and Bill Kelly came on as Treasurer ... Programmer Ken Post submitted the five-year plan for annual meetings (it was, in fact, out of wack!) ... Mike Batchik reported that a state-wide committee of judicial mediators is being established to attack the long-standing problem of disputes between the courts and their financing units (positive vibes on results) ... Sen. Connie Binsfeld materialized. She was supportive of state support for some court services (it is now called the "due process" package!) ... Legislative's Hall discussed the Supreme Court's auditor, Clayton Ploof's, ruling that longevity pay was "out". Ploof considered it salary. Local units paying longevity (about 12 at the time) would lose supplements! MDJA's position: longevity is a fringe benefit! (Ploof, at the time, was the Supreme Court's auditor) (thanks to Flint's Judge Elliott, that one was won in the courts!) (after years of litigation!!)

Rep. Frank Spaniola discoursed with us at the March meeting. The subject - Retirement Systems in Michigan. He offered to work

with the association to accomplish our goal. ... President Bill reported on the meeting with the C.J. - state paid liability insurance is out as the Attorney General will reportedly represent judges involved in law suits (ah - but the pitfalls in that are legend!) ... Jim Covault (SCAO) was introduced. He will be the MDJA liaison.

Springtime in Michigan. The good news is that all but three judges are signed up with MDJA (it was invidious pressure at the hands of S.J.!) ... A very active Legislative Committee is studying, analyzing and recommending a plethora of Bills.

The annual meeting convened at Shanty Creek. Treasurer Kelly reported \$16,240.00 in contributions to the "educational fund". MDJA contributed \$1,000 to the National Judicial College in response to their appeal ... Tom Smith reporting for the Rules Committee tells us that final touches are being put on the "guilty plea" rule. The Supreme await our decision (now that's a switch!) ... At the plenary session, new Judges Carolyn Archbold and Jim Mackie were introduced. Elected to office for 1987 were Roger La Rose, President; Don Neitzel, V.P.; Bill Kelly, Sec., Ken Post, Treasurer. Regional Directors elected were: Elden, Hall and James. Margaret Schaeffer and Joel Mills (appointed that ayem) gave the Nominating Committee report. As the nominators forgot to nominate new nominators, Schaeffer and Mills were nominated to retain their roles as nominators!

In September, we again met at the Omni in Detroit. A highlight of the Bar meeting was the March of robed judges down Jefferson Avenue (a lofty, impressive group, I dare say!) ... There was no treasurer's report as Kelly was in D.C. at a Victim's Rights Conference (so that's where our educational funds went?) ... Signs of the times: AIDS legislation was on the agenda. Hall and his vigilantes recommended that this subject matter be kept in the Dept. of Public Health (so what happened?) ... President Cannon reports on the meeting with the Supreme Court: Justice Boyle's "Citizens Panel" report was reviewed and time standard guidelines have gone to the Supreme Court Commissioners (More dire forebodings!).

As the leaves began to turn color, Merritt reports on a number of significant meetings on retirement. Lobbyists and jurists scurrying about. A revenue neutral Bill has been developed. An attempt will be made to move within nine days (Ha! that must be a misprint. Methinks he meant nine years!). As the legislature wants to improve its pension, it was proposed that we piggyback on their Bill. (We're still smarting over that one - as you recall they later quietly passed their Bill and left us high but not so dry!) ... Dennis Drury recommended a ban on smoking at annual meetings and carried the day (another blow to the cigar smokers of America!). ... Hall and James will do a new draft on 'drunk driving reform'.



At the year's final gathering, newly-elected Circuit Judge, John Hammond, bade farewell. President Bill thanked John for 17 years of active, devoted service. New chairs appointed: Legislative - Tom Brennan, Jr.; Rules - Pat Bowler; Program - Bob Carr; Government Liaison - Pete O'Connell; State Financing - Theresa Doss and BENCHMARKS - Arney Mustonen (now doesn't that look like the third MDJA revolution - all that new fresh blood!).

The final cannon shot occurred January 28, 1987, at Bay Valley Inn. A budget of \$54,000.00 was adopted ... A payroll check-off system has been set up through the State Employee's Credit Union for education fund contributions (though implementation of this program faltered you should know that O'Connell and Post performed Herculean work to set up the system). Brennan's motion to discontinue political contributions was laid on the table (but the storm was brewing!) ... Chief Justice Riley wants as many judges as possible to assemble at the State Capitol for her State of the Judiciary address (that, too, was an impressive sight-good turnout!) ... and so endeth another year.

1987

President La Rose (Kelly's secret twin) is the new Presidente as the dawn of '87 begins. Steve Stanley, our legislative agent, reported that the SOCC raises are in effect. They were, in fact, so generous that they will adversely effect both the 100% salary standardization and retirement plans. (Alas, many legislators who thought our raises were overwhelming no longer love us. The truth is that they go exactly what they asked for - as did we!) ... In regards to our financial support for our Lansing consultants, signs of divisiveness bubbled up. Tie votes, challenges to the chair and parliamentary legerdemain (later oft repeated) reminded us of the Washington scene. ... The new Recorder's Certification Bill passed and Dan Sawicki was appointed as the District Judge member of that board.

Program Chair, Bob Carr, announced that his committee is eliminating favors at this year's annual meeting in favor of improving the entertainment. MDJA will host the cocktail hour as Callaghan (our hosts forever) pulled out. Budget for this year's annual meeting: \$6,000.00!

At the March gathering, we officially adopted the State Employee's Credit Union as a depository for PAC contributions. O'Connell was designated to draw up by-laws for the MDJA-PAC which was designed, in essence, to be a free-standing group (with the judges as groupies!). Much discussion then ensued on a rather startling letter from the judges of the 61st District, which by way or paraphrase threatened to "blow the lid" off if MDJA did not cease its financial political activity. It was agreed that an opinion of the Tenure Commission would be sought in an attempt to resolve the PAC matter.

In April, some 54 pieces of legislation was considered by the Board - something new, something old and something blue (is that from the right handbook?). Hall did report that the MDJA/ Secretary of State OUIL reform proposal is off to Bullard's Committee (it proved to be far off!) ... Dave Gee is the new liaison to the Library Board and we are advised he received a warm welcome (that's because he was on the hot seat).

A flip-flop in May: the Tenure Commission said they didn't have time to review our request for an opinion of PAC. On a 6-4 vote, we withdrew our request (so there too!) ... O'Connell, James and Brennan were appointed to a "PAC Implementation" Committee to come up with objectives and an agenda for this program ... Funds were appropriated to defer part of the costs of briefing in the Van Kula suit for equal pay. The State Police expressed their appreciation for Don James enduring work as our rep. to the Radar Task Force ... Brennan's legislative report was down to 43 Bills (business is slow!). Supports, no supports and oppositions were duly recorded ... Pat Bowler reports the 'new guilty plea' rule is almost ready for launching.

A frequent line in the minutes meandering through the year: "The Retirement Bill was also discussed."

Summertime: ... we retain the Farhat firm to draft our amicus brief in the Van Kula suit ... Justice Levin appeared at our July meeting (we are honored - MJA meetings are regularly attended by members of the High Court, but gracing our table is somewhat of a rarity) ... Brennan told us of a Bill to tack on a fee in civil actions to fund alternate dispute resolutions. We approved the concept, but vigorously opposed the additional fee (report: we were caught totally asleep on this one - it breezed on through with nary a word or warning!) ... Kelly reported that with thanks to Steve Stanley and Company, judicial standardization payments will rise to 90% of local pay on January 1st (good show - and pass through is required!) ... Roy Cicotte developed an excellent P.R. program involving the use of billboards to show what nice people we judges are ... Brennan showed his political clout: the Board rescinded its action to set up a PAC and also voted to close out its long-standing "political" bank account.

Our favorite spot, Mackinac island, was the scene of our august annual meeting (which happened to fall in August). New Judges Lynda Tolen, Claudia Gartin, Jules Hanslovsky, Geoffrey Neithercut, Steve Cooper, Frank Line, Frank Del Vero, Joe DeLaurentiis and Pat Micklow were introduced. ... Brief committee reports were presented and for a change, committee members were recognized and introduced ... Mills gave the Nominating Committee report: Neitzel for President, Kelly for Vice, Post for Secretary and Doss for Treasurer. Elden, Brennan and James were nominated as Regional Directors and Bob Brzezinski and Fred Grimm became nominators (ah, we remembered!).



The State Bar and MDJA convened at the Grand Amway (Grand Rapids) in September. Post reported that the balance of our "political" account was in the hands of the Judicial College ... The board voted to contribute \$1,000.00 to the Gender Bias Task Force and \$1,000.00 for the Race/Ethnic Bias Task Force. (We won a few points there!)

Fall is upon us as we reconvene in Lansing once again. Steve Stanley reports that the Retirement Bills had been reintroduced (methinks we'll all be retired by the time this Bill passes!) ... The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) expresses a desire to work with us on implementing state financing (and they used to be our adversaries!) ... tabled once again was a request to send the PAC to the JTC ... Brennan reports on 58 bills: 12 supports, 13 oppositions, 6 tabled and the balance, no position (nothing to rise the excitement glands!) ... mandatory continuing legal education is now the vogue subject. We support the concept but want a separate but parallel judicial section. (The Supreme Court's resolve: "The best way to solve a problem is to avoid it.")

A significant happening at our December meeting was a motion by Roy Cicotte (who now inhabits Lincoln Park's Roy Cicotte Hall of Justice!) (I'm impressed!); he moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, the significance? He moved to accept that report at every meeting during the year!! ... \$2,500.00 was set aside to cover expense on the Van Kula brief ... By fiat of President-Elect, Neitzel, Hall took over once again as Legislative Chair. Reappointed were Bowler - Rules; Carr - Program; Batchik and O'Connell - Government Liaison and Cicotte - Public Information. Pres.-Elect Don also appointed Joel Mills as Retirement Chair and Jim McCann, State Financing Chair. ... Charlie Stark (from way up north) inquired as to whether the board supported candidates for appointment to the Circuit bench. It was said, "We do not", (but Charlie, nonetheless, got the appointment!) ... Our billboards (ten of 'em) read, "Good judgment, drive sober. Seatbelt your family. Mich. Assn. of District Judges" (good sense too!) ... Justice Levin was once more amongst us ... President Roger expressed his appreciation to Bill Cannon who is leaving the Board after many years of appreciated service ... So endeth '87.

1988

President Don Neitzel handled the gavel as our 20th year got underway at a meeting in Novi. For some unknown reason, Roy Cicotte failed to move the acceptance of Theresa Doss's Treasurer's Report (in fact, there was no movement), but Roy did get enrolled in the minutes by moving receipt of Secretary Post's report. ... Guardian Interlock was in attendance and demonstrated their system of preventing drunk drivers from starting up ... Past Prexy, Roger, gave his usual pension Bill report ... Always. Legislative Chair, Lysle, indicated that the Shoplifting Bill (which we opposed) - is now law ... Quote from the February

minutes: "Pete O'Connell requested action on Bill 5298. S.J. Elden seconded. Someone please clarify at next meeting."

Frank Blomgren, everlasting friend of MDJA and our liaison with the Secretary of State is retiring. An appropriate gift was authorized and Lysle took on the planning of a bon voyage ... Pat Bowler proposed an amendment to the court rules to clarify the confusion about appeals of civil infractions to Circuit Court (and we proudly look to '89 to report the adoption of the proposal).

Springtime in the capitol and guesting with us was Attorney McClellan who discussed a "trustee plan" to handle political contributions which was calculated to answer objectional legal and ethical questions that have plagued us over the past few years ... We again voted financial support in co-sponsoring a reception after the State of Judiciary message ... the "new" Drunk Driving Bill was discussed at length under the direction of Don James. Numerous problems surfaced ... Steve Stanley (Governmental Services) introduced a member of Rep. Bill Van Regenmorter's staff who discussed various issues affecting the judiciary. Our input was solicited ... V. Bob Payant has resigned and is heading out west once again (the gaming tables were too much of a lure!) ... The "trustee plan" came off the table and the appointment of a committee to prepare a report for presentation at our annual meeting was approved ... General discussions during this time centered on Rep. Bullard's Bill to raise small claims to \$2,500.00. (We have generally opposed the continual increases in jurisdiction and we seek compromises; the inclusion of hard-to-prove fraud claims particularly disturbs us. (Prediction (?): we always come out at the bottom of the heap in small claims matters.) (And, furthermore, creditors exalt every increase!))

At our June meeting, the Nominating Committee gave their report: Bill Kelly for #1 Chief, Ken Post as his vice, Theresa Doss for Secretary and the new kid in the block - Mike Batchik-for Treasurer. Regional Directors James, Elden, and Brennan (Jr.) were renominated and finally the Nominating Committee renominated itself as nominators ... Gail McKnight was appointed to work on the Advisory Committee of the Michigan Safety Commission ... Pete O'Connell strongly suggested that we seek an "opinion" on the ethics of a PAC - "the matter was dropped". ... Joel Mills gave the regular report on retirement ... Jim Sheridan, Jim Collins, Lynda Tolen and Gary Allen were appointed to come up with legislation on 'community service'. (A subject meandering between MDJA and the Legislature forever!) ... Sen. Rudy Nichols will introduce the MDJA/Secretary of State OUIL Bill.

Sketchy minutes are recorded for the summer meeting at Boyne Highlands. It appears that O'Connell reported in at 5:40 P.M., Mustonen and Hall at 6:00 and Kelly and Doss at 6:10. The only excitement was Cicotte's motion to adjourn (if passed).



In September, the Board met in the high seas (well, maybe it was on the Detroit River) ... a good discussion ensued (in between waves) about how to improve our annual meetings. Good ideas floated by (and some flotsam, too!) ... President Don reported on Sen. Engler's new knot on pensions - a trade off: his reputed support in return for a reduction in our % of salary in relation to the pay for the Supreme Court (88% to 85%). Other than this diabolical inclusion, the remaining segments are A-OK. We reaffirmed our support (with a caveat to negotiate!). A time table was carefully crafted (and for a change all went wild, exploded and evaporated into the mist of approaching fall!).

The fall cycle made its annual appearance and we met at the same old place with the same old lunch (Campbell Catering must have 500,000 mini sandwiches in its freezers. Hopefully by Century 21, a new menu will emerge!). ... President Don reports that five counties have brought suit against the state regarding court fees ... Circuit Court removals reared its ugly head once again as we raised our voices to the Supremes ... Steve Stanley had positive vibes on retirement. Opposition is fading (as are many of the judges!) ... Mike Batchik led a discussion on the new infra-red breathalyzer ... Jim Sheridan presented the proposed "community service" legislation (the crux of the matter is to grant immunity to courts and their funding units in case of injury).

History records a "comedy of errors" in our quest to get the Retirement Bill through the legislature in November. 1989 will have to be the year as all of our efforts went down the proverbial drain due to miscues. (... and our prognosticators project that '89 will, in fact, be the year!) ... Pres.-Elect Kelly announced his committee chairs for next year: Legislative - Sheridan and Hall (my but that Hall has tenure ... along with tenacity!); Rules - Bowler; Program - Carr; Government Liaison - O'Connell; Judicial Association Liaison - La Rose; and "Benchmarks" - Mustonen ... Don James broached an eloquent question as to the location of our records. He has some, but silence prevailed as to further queries. He stressed the need for a repository of our historical (and sometimes hysterical) documents (it was a major undertaking to track down the records. We inadvertently found the balance of them when John Hammond noted that they were in the mail room of the State Bar repository!)(who has the '82 minutes?).

The Neitzel era ended on January 13, 1989 ... Our newly elected (but not yet installed) officers, that dynamic foursome of Kelly, Post, Batchik and Doss met with "Governmental Consultant Services, Inc." (our agents on the hill) regarding their new contract. It was agreed to continue on a month-to-month basis until August (at that time a substantial increase will be sought!). And fiscal 1988 ended like a pussycat (quiet and purring). (Budget: \$51,770.00 - we've come a long way, baby!)

Thus endeth the first twenty years.

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