

2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS

The Judicial Qualifications Committee interviews, evaluates and rates candidates for appointment to judicial vacancies as requested by the Governor, and reports its evaluation in confidence to the Governor. A representative from the Governor's Office is present during the interview. The candidates are rated Well Qualified, Qualified, Not Qualified and Not Qualified Lacks Experience.

Prior to the interview, the application is assigned to one member of the Committee who contacts lawyers in the community to obtain background information regarding the candidate. These sources are confidential.

A representative of the Attorney Grievance Commission is present who has contacted local judges to obtain background information to report to the Committee and any grievances that may have been filed against the candidate.

Activities

The Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month when there is a vacancy to fill as requested by the governor.

The Committee met on seven occasions from June 2004 to April 2005 to interview 67 candidates for the following vacancies:

3rd Circuit, Wayne County (8 candidates); 3rd Circuit, Wayne County (1 candidate); 9th Circuit – Family Division, Kalamazoo County (8 candidates); 49th Circuit, Mecosta & Osceola Counties (11 candidates)

19th District, Wayne County (10 candidates); 75th District, Midland County (11 candidates); 41-B District, Macomb County (12 candidates)

Wayne County Probate (6 candidates)

Listed are the appointments made by Governor Granholm as of April 22, 2005:

3rd Circuit, Wayne – Hon. Wade H. McCree succeeding Hon. Pamela Harwood

3rd Circuit, Wayne – Richard Skutt

9th Circuit/Family Division, Kalamazoo – Curtis J. Bell succeeding Hon. Carolyn J. Williams

36th District, Wayne – Rudolph A. Serra succeeding Hon. Wade H. McCree

19th District, Wayne – Richard Wygonik succeeding Hon. Virginia A. Sobotka

Wayne County Probate – Judy Hartsfield succeeding Hon. Francis Pitts

In support of the Committee, the State Bar of Michigan provides a meeting room at the Michael Franck Building as well as lunch for the Committee. A staff liaison is assigned to coordinate the interview schedule with the Governor's Office, submit a report to the Governor indicating the Committee's ratings for each candidate and handle the administrative work.

Co-Chairs

Kimberly M. Cahill
Robert B. Webster