



OBITER DICTUM



Obiter News:
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DECEMBER 2012

Smedley elected to 14th Circuit bench

Voters choose woman in close race

Besting a field of six colleagues through primary and general elections, Annette Smedley was elected to the 14th Circuit bench. She will be sworn in at 3:30 p.m. Friday 28 December in the courtroom of James M. Graves Jr., sixth floor of the Kobza Hall of Justice.

Only 252 votes separated Judge-Elect Smedley from Raymond Kostrzewa. In a very narrow race, Muskegon County voters gave Ms. Smedley 28,494 votes and Mr. Kostrzewa 28,242.

The 2012 election was the first time since 1968 for an open circuit judgeship. That year the Legislature created a third seat on the 14th bench. Charles A. Larnard Jr. beat Jared Collinge for the post.

Ms. Smedley succeeds Hon. James M. Graves Jr., the longest-serving jurist in county history. Attaining age 70, Judge Graves is



A. Smedley



Raymond Kostrzewa



M. Walsh



J. Bush



D. Wells



K. Groenhout

age-limited and unable to seek reelection. The term is for six years and pays \$139,919 annually.

The 7 November decision by voters ended almost a year's effort by six attorneys who filed for election.

The August primary winnowed the field from six to Smedley and Kostrzewa. Those who also appeared on the primary ballot were Michael G. Walsh, Joseph Bush, David Wells, and Karen Groenhout.



Hon. James M. Graves Jr.

Smedley bests field of six colleagues

You are cordially invited to the swearing-in ceremony of Judge-Elect Annette Smedley. 3:30 p.m. Friday 28 December 2012 Courtroom of James M. Graves, Jr. 6th floor, Kobza Hall of Justice.

Make a difference this season for lonely local kids

For many abused and neglected Muskegon County children, Christmas morning is just another day of wanting. But for a number of years, children at Muskegon's Child Haven have awakened to our generosity.

Thanks to efforts of the annual Women Lawyers'/Muskegon County Bar Association Christmas Party, Child Haven children receive gifts on Christmas Day. Extra funds are used to pay for

kids' birthdays, outings, and extra events throughout the year.

None of this happens without US. Your continued support is more important than can be put into words. Help us brighten the holiday season for children living in sad circumstances.

Please send your check payable to Child Haven to: Jenny McNeill, Ladas & Hoopes, 435 Whitehall Road, North Muskegon, MI 49445



L-R: Hon. M. Nolan, Hon. M.Ladas-Hoopes, Justice Brian Zahra, Hon. W. Marietti, Hon. N. Mullally, Hon. T. Linck. See Page 2 for additional pictures.

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Tradition changes for 2012 Barrister's Ball

For as long as anyone can remember, the annual holiday season Barrister's Ball consisted of a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres followed by a formal dinner followed by an evening of dancing. This year, there's still a great time, but also more time to chat with friends and colleagues yet no formal dinner—just more time for dancing.



This year's fete is Friday 7 December at Muskegon County Club beginning at 6:30 p.m. Unlike other years, this year features an open bar until 8 p.m. and an extensive variety of lavish hors d'oeuvres available all evening. Dancing starts at 7 p.m.

Please RSVP by returning your invitation or by contacting Patti: at 231-727-2617 or griffip@wnj.com.



Earning a few bucks, getting some doe

For area deer hunters, now is prime time—rifle season. MCBA Member Matthew Miller, like a number of our membership, spent some time in the woods and netted this buck on opening day, 15 November near Scottville.

Sheriff, County unveil new jail planning

Sheriff Dean Roesler and the engineering firm RAQW recently updated MCBA members about efforts to replace the current Muskegon County Jail and Juvenile Transition Center.

Using bonds, not millage, the county would build a jail on Pine Street and adjacent to the current jail. Juveniles would be at Muskegon's Craig school.



Portrait-hanging to honor retiring Judge Graves

The MCBA and the community will honor the service of Hon. James M. Graves, Jr. on Friday 18 January 2013 with the hanging of his portrait on the walls of the courtroom he's headed for decades.

A MCBA luncheon in Judge Graves' honor will be announced by email in the near future as well.



Scenes from MCBA's annual Law Day celebration, May 2012

