

2003-2004 ANNUAL REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS

The Judicial Qualifications Committee interviews, evaluates and rate 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.

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 met on nine occasions from May 2003 to May 2004 to interview 160 candidates for the following vacancies:

3rd Circuit, Wayne County (24 candidates); 2nd Circuit, Berrien County (5 candidates); 6th Circuit, Oakland County (21 candidates).

41-A District, Macomb County (13 candidates); 30th District, Highland Park (4 candidates); 24th District, Wayne County (11 candidates); 50th District, Oakland County (7 candidates); 62-A District Court, Kent County (12 candidates); 92nd District, Luce and Mackinac Counties (5 candidates); 29th District, Wayne County (5 candidates); 25th District, Lincoln Park (1 candidate)

Macomb County Probate (7 candidates); Houghton County Probate (4 candidates); Montmorency County Probate (3 candidates); Ionia County Probate (8 candidates); Genesee County Probate (17 candidates); Dickinson County Probate (3 candidates); Barry County Probate (7 candidates); Clinton County Probate 3 candidates).

Listed are the vacancies filled by Governor Granholm as of May 19, 2004:

6th Circuit, Wayne – Mark A. Goldsmith succeeding Hon. Patrick Brennan

3rd Circuit, Wayne – David J. Allen succeeding Hon. Kym L. Worthy

Edward M. Ewell, Jr. succeeding Hon. George W. Crockett, III

Virgil C. Smith succeeding Hon. Kaye Tertzag

2nd Circuit, Berrien – Alfred M. Butzbaugh succeeding Hon. John Fields

41-A District, Wayne – Kimberley A. Wiegand succeeding Hon. Kenneth J. Kosnic

30th District, Highland Park – Brigitte R. Officer succeeding Hon. Leslie K. Hoagland

24th District, Wayne County – Anthony S. Guerriero succeeding Hon. Gerald Trudel

50th District, Oakland County – Cynthia T. Walker succeeding Hon. William Waterman

62-A District, Kent County – M. Scott Bowen succeeding Hon Jack Jelsema
92nd District, Luce and Mackanic County – Barbara Brown succeeding Hon. Steven Ford
29th District, Wayne County – Laura Redmond Mack succeeding Hon. Carolyn Archbold
25th District, Lincoln Park – David J. Zelenak succeeding Hon. Joseph H. DeLaurentis

Macomb County Probate – Tracey A. Yokich succeeding Hon. Antonio P. Viviano
Houghton County Probate – Charles Goodman succeeding Hon. John Mikkola
Montmorency county Probate – Michael Mack succeeding Hon. Robert Nordstrom
Ionia County Probate – Nannette M. Bowler succeeding Hon. Gerald Supina
Genesee County Probate – David J. Newblatt succeeding Hon. Thomas Gadola
Dickinson county Probate – Thomas D. Slagle succeeding Hon. John Torreano
Barry County Probate – Stephanie S. Fekkes succeeding Hon. Richard H. Shaw

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:

Elizabeth P. Hardy
Kimberly M. Cahill