

# JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

P.O. Box 30022, Lansing, MI 48909

## ***1st District***

*Term expires*

HAROLD HOOD, Detroit . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2003
KIRSTEN FRANK KELLY, Grosse Pointe Park . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2007
CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY, Grosse Pointe Farms . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2003
MICHAEL J. TALBOT, Grosse Pointe. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2003
HELENE N. WHITE, Detroit . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2005
KURTIS T. WILDER, Canton . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2005
BRIAN K. ZAHRA, Northville Township . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2007

## ***2nd District***

MARK J. CAVANAGH, Royal Oak . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2003
JESSICA R. COOPER, Beverly Hills . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2007
PAT M. DONOFRIO, Clinton Township. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2005
E. THOMAS FITZGERALD, Owosso . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2003
HILDA R. GAGE, Bloomfield Hills. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2007
KATHLEEN JANSEN, St. Clair Shores. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2007
HENRY WILLIAM SAAD, Birmingham. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2003

## ***3rd District***

RICHARD A. BANDSTRA, Grand Rapids, Chief Judge. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2003
JOEL P. HOEKSTRA, Grand Rapids . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2005
JANE E. MARKEY, Grand Rapids . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2003
WILLIAM B. MURPHY, East Grand Rapids . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2007
JANET T. NEFF, East Grand Rapids . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2007
DAVID H. SAWYER, East Grand Rapids. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2005
MICHAEL R. SMOLENSKI, Grand Rapids . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2007

## ***4th District***

RICHARD ALLEN GRIFFIN, Traverse City. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2003
DONALD E. HOLBROOK, JR., Lansing. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2003
GARY R. McDONALD,* Saginaw . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2007
PATRICK M. METER, Saginaw . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2003
PETER D. O'CONNELL, Mt. Pleasant . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2007
DONALD S. OWENS, Williamston . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2005
WILLIAM C. WHITBECK, Lansing, Chief Judge. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2005

SANDRA SCHULTZ MENGEL, Chief Clerk

\* Resigned effective January 3, 2003.

Source: State Court Administrative Office

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF JUDGES



**CHIEF JUDGE  
RICHARD A. BANDSTRA**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Grand Rapids, born April 2, 1950, at Chicago; graduate of Illiana Christian High School, Lansing, Illinois; B.A., Calvin College (Grand Rapids); M.A. (sociology) and J.D., University of Chicago; married to the former Cynthia Gale Triezenberg since 1970; daughters: Carissa and Justine; associate professor of sociology, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois, 1974-1976; associate editor, *The University of Chicago Law Review*, 1978-1980; law practice at the Federal Trade Commission (Chicago), Jenner & Block (Chicago) and Warner, Norcross & Judd (Grand Rapids); state representative (1985-1994) from Grand Rapids with service as Floor Leader of the Michigan House, vice-chair of Judiciary and Public Health Committees, member of other legislative committees, chair of the Task Force on Taxpayer Rights, chair of the Task Force on AIDS Policy and member of the Commission on the Courts in the Twenty-First Century; recipient of numerous awards for legislative accomplishment including the American Legislative Exchange Council's Outstanding Legislator Award for chairing the Task Force on Civil Justice; recipient of the 1988 Annual Grand Rapids Jaycees Distinguished Service Award for work with community programs; member: Michigan Judges Association Executive Committee, American Bar Association Council of Chief Judges, Michigan Council of Chief Judges, Michigan Bar Foundation Fellows; board member and/or board president: Board of Publications (Christian Reformed Church), Habitat for Humanity of Grand Rapids, Community Reconciliation Center, Association for Public Justice, Advisory Center for Teens, Eastown Community Association, Committee on Race Relations (Christian Reformed Church), Alternative Directions and World Affairs Council of West Michigan; elder and deacon, Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids; Legal Specialist, American Bar Association Central and East European Law Initiative, serving in Bratislava, Slovakia, 1998-1999; speaker, Michigan Judicial Conference, 1995; panel member, Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference, 1995 and 1998; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in November 1994, to an eight-year term; appointed Chief Judge Pro Tem, 1997; appointed Chief Judge, 1999.



**JUDGE  
MARK J. CAVANAGH**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Royal Oak; born August 12, 1953; B.A., University of Michigan; J.D., Detroit College of Law; domestic relations investigator, Wayne County Friend of the Court; assistant Wayne County Prosecutor, Appellate and Felony Trial Divisions; private law practice, 1985; Special Assistant Attorney General, Worker's Compensation Division, State of Michigan; professional activities include the State Bar of Michigan, Recorder's Court Bar Association, Wayne County Juvenile Court Trial Attorney Association, the Irish-American Lawyers Association, Michigan Judges Association, and is admitted to practice in the Federal courts in Michigan. Judge Cavanagh was reelected to a 6-year term on the Court of Appeals, 2nd District, in November 1996. He has two daughters, Laura and Katie.



**JUDGE  
JESSICA R. COOPER**

Term expires January 1, 2007

Of Beverly Hills, Jessica Cooper has been a judge for 24 years. She was elected to the 46th District Bench in Southfield, Michigan in 1978 and re-elected in 1984. In November 1986, she ran for and was elected to the 6th Circuit Bench in Oakland County, Michigan. She was re-elected in 1992 and 1998. In 2000, Judge Cooper was elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals. A 1973 graduate of Wayne State University Law School, she began her career as an assistant defender in the State Appellate Defender's office in 1973. She opened her own general law practice in Bloomfield Township, Michigan in 1975, with special emphasis on civil rights litigation. Judge Cooper's civic activities have included service on the boards of HAVEN (Oakland County's domestic violence shelter and sexual assault counseling center), Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Jewish Family Service, the Advisory Board of Forgotten Harvest (a mobile food distribution program for the needy), and CANCO (Oakland County Child Abuse and Neglect Council). She is a founding member of the National Association of Women Judges, and served as its publication editor and member of the National Task Force on Gender Bias in the Courts. Judge Cooper has been an adjunct professor at Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University for the past three years where she teaches Applied Evidence and Trial Practice. She taught a week-long seminar in Trial Practice at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, in May 2000 and was invited to teach there again in 2001. In 1997, she ran as an independent for the Michigan Supreme Court. She filed petitions with over 44,000 signatures to win a place on the ballot. With no partisan backing and very little financial support, she received close to 500,000 votes. Judge Cooper received national and international acclaim for her work as the presiding Judge on the Jack Kevorkian and Itsumi Koga cases.



**JUDGE  
PAT M. DONOFRIO**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Of Clinton Township; B.S., Wayne State University, 1967; J.D., Wayne State University School of Law, 1970; commenced private practice of law and, in 1974, was a founding member of the Oakland County law firm of Romain, Donofrio, Kuck & Egerer, P.C., now Romain, Kuck & Egerer, P.C.; appointed to the Macomb County Circuit Court bench in 1997 and elected to the court in 1998; served as presiding judge of the civil/criminal division of the circuit court from 1998 until his appointment to the Michigan Court of Appeals; member of the Michigan Judges Association, the American Judges Association, the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, and the Selfridge Base Community Council; earned certificates from the National Judicial College and the National Drug Court Institute; served as a member of the faculty of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the National Judicial College, the Michigan Judicial Institute, and the Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on Trial Court Performance Standards; appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals, 2nd District, effective November 8, 2002.



**JUDGE  
E. THOMAS FITZGERALD**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Owosso; born November 29, 1939, in Detroit. He attended Assumption High School in Windsor, Ontario, and the University of Detroit, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963. From 1963 to 1966, he attended the University of Detroit Law School, receiving both a Juris Doctor degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree. Judge Fitzgerald was in private practice in Detroit from 1967 to 1968. In 1968, he joined Ellis Bowler & Associates in Durand. In 1969, he established the law firm of Fitzgerald & Dumon, P.C., in Owosso, concentrating primarily on the practice of criminal and domestic law. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, American Bar Association, Shiawassee County Bar Association (of which he is a past treasurer, secretary and president), Genesee County Bar Association, Ingham County Bar Association, American Judges Association, Michigan Judges Association, and State Bar of Michigan Appellate Court Administration Committee; Rules Committee; American Trial Lawyers Association; judge of Moot Court Competition for Thomas M. Cooley Law School; Judge, Finals U of D Mercy Moot Court Competition; Cooley Law Review; Distinguished Brief Award Judge, 1999, 2000; Michigan Youth in Government; Irish-American Club of Lansing, Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, American Judicature Society, Michigan Association of Professions, University of Detroit Alumni Association, Appellate Bench/Bar Executive Committee, Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society; Fellow, Michigan State Bar Association. He is married to Assistant Attorney General Kathy Fitzgerald and has three children: John, Jennifer and Mary Kate; is a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Owosso, and has been active in many civic organizations, including the Boy Scouts; Honorary Chairman of 1991 March of Dimes Walk America, and Board of Directors, American Heart Association. He received an honorable discharge from the United States Marine Corps in 1962; first elected to the Court of Appeals, 2nd District, in 1990 to a six-year term; reelected in 1996 to another six-year term.



**JUDGE  
HILDA R. GAGE**

Term expires January 1, 2007

Of Oakland County; born June 16, 1939; judge of the 6th Judicial Circuit (Oakland County), 18 years; Chief Judge, two years; became a member of the Board of the National Judicial College in 1987, elected vice-chair (1989); past chair of the American Bar Association National Conference of State Trial Judges, the ABA National Conference of State Trial Judges Committee on Court Delay Reduction, and the ABA Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Costs and Delay; ABA House of Delegates, 1982; elected to the American Law Institute in 1981, and elected a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation in 1979; joined the National Center for State Courts Coordinating Council on Life-Sustaining Treatment Decision-Making in July 1989; past chair of the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission (1991) and the Judicial Conference of the State Bar of Michigan; president, Michigan Judges Association, 1987; member of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission (1975-1978); appointed by Governor Engler to the Michigan Sentencing Guidelines Commission in April 1995; recipient of numerous honors, including Women's Bar Association Award (2000); "Michiganian of the Year" distinction by *The Detroit News*, the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Award (1995), the State Bar of Michigan Roberts P. Hudson Award, the Oakland County Bar Association Frances R. Avadenka Award, the National Center for State Courts Distinguished Service Award, and the John N. O'Brien Memorial Award; first recipient of the American Bar Association National Conference of State Trial Judges Distinguished Service Award; member, executive board, Children's Hospital of Michigan; Wayne State University Law School Committee of Visitors; member, board of directors, American Committee for Weizmann Institute of Science; member, executive committee, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan Chapter; Habitat for Humanity, participant, Women's Build, May 2001; member, board of directors, Dysautonomia Foundation, Inc., Michigan Chapter; appointed to the Court of Appeals, November 1996; elected, November 1998.



**JUDGE  
RICHARD ALLEN GRIFFIN**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Traverse City; born April 15, 1952, at Traverse City; B.A. magna cum laude, Western Michigan University Honors College, 1973; J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1977; married to N. Christine Griffin; children: Sarah, Kelley, and Karaline; member, State Bar of Michigan (1977), the Florida Bar (1978), Federal District Court-Western District, Michigan; Federal District Court-Eastern District, Michigan, and U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals; law clerk, the Honorable Ross W. Campbell, 1975-1977; associate, Williams, Coulter, Cunningham, Davison & Read, 1977-1981; partner, Coulter, Cunningham, Davison & Read, 1981-1985; partner, Read & Griffin, 1985-1988; member, American Judicature Society; former member of the Federal Judicial Selection Committee for the Western District of Michigan; president, Grand Traverse Zoological Society; past chairman, Yellow Ribbon Committee; past chairman, Long Lake Township Building Authority; advisor and chief judge, YMCA Model Judiciary Program; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in November 1988; reelected to the Court of Appeals, 4th District, in November 1996.



**JUDGE  
JOEL P. HOEKSTRA**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Of Grand Rapids; born May 10, 1947, to Richard C. and Joan Hoekstra; married to Greta J. (Buis) Hoekstra; children Bryan and Karin; member of Shawnee Park Christian Reformed Church; B.A., Calvin College, 1970; J.D., Valparaiso University School of Law, 1973; Assistant Kent County Prosecuting Attorney, 1973-1985, founded and supervised Juvenile Division, 1977-1979; elected to 61st District Court, 1984 and reelected, 1990; Chief Judge, 1989-1993; adjunct professor of criminal justice, Calvin College and formerly of Grand Rapids Community College; board member, Young Life of Grand Rapids; former board member, Grand Rapids Christian Schools, Very Special Arts, Project Rehab, Kent County Community Corrections, Family Impact, Kent County Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee; elected to Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in 1994.



**JUDGE  
DONALD E. HOLBROOK, JR.**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Clare, who has resided in Eaton County since 1975; born October 29, 1931, at Grand Rapids; A.B., Albion College; LL.B., Wayne State University Law School; wife: Dr. Linda A. Patriarca; children: Gregg Bradford and Christopher Todd; Methodist; member, Masonic Lodge; past president of Clare Kiwanis Club and delegate to 1964 Kiwanis International Convention; State Bar of Michigan; American Judicature Society; twice regional Michigan Week chairman; past Dad Advisor of DeMolay for Boys; past chairman, board of directors, Clare Osteopathic Hospital; past chairman, Tomahawk District, Boy Scouts of America; U.S. Air Force 1957-1961 — Judge Advocate General Department, discharged as captain; Clare County Friend of the Court, 1962-1964; elected to House of Representatives in 1964 and reelected in 1966, 1968, and 1970; while a legislator served as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and as primary author of Michigan's District Court Act in 1968; elected circuit judge, 21st Judicial Circuit, 1972; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in 1974, 1984, 1990, and to the 4th District in 1996.



**JUDGE  
HAROLD HOOD**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Detroit; born January 14, 1931, at Hamtramck; Detroit public schools; graduated summa cum laude from Cass Technical High School, 1948; B.A., University of Michigan, 1952, and immediately entered the U.S. Army, serving as a first lieutenant with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea; upon returning to civilian life, entered Wayne State University Law School and received J.D. degree, with distinction, in 1959; formed own law firm, Hood, Rice and Charity, and practiced until 1961; joined staff of the Corporation Counsel of the City of Detroit, serving as Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel; in 1969, joined staff of the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, and served as Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney until 1973; professional activities have included the American Bar Association, The Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, the Michigan Bar Association, the Detroit Bar Association, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Association of Black Judges of Michigan (of which he was the founding chairperson), the American Judicature Society, the Federal Bar Association, the Michigan Judges Association; the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers; vice president of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys and one of the original directors of Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Service Centers; former chairman, Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission, 1986-1988; chair, Task Force on Racial/Ethnic Issues in the Courts, 1987-1989; co-chair, State Bar of Michigan Commission on Open Justice, 1998 to present; board of trustees, Ecumenical Theological Seminary; served on the Supreme Court Committee to Review and Consolidate Michigan Court Rules and is also chairman of the Supreme Court's Standard Civil Jury Instructions Committee; adjunct professor at Central Michigan University and Detroit College of Law; serves on the faculty of the Michigan Judicial Institute and at the National Judicial College; appointed to the Common Pleas Court of Detroit in 1973, was elected to that judgeship in 1974 and reelected in 1976; appointed to the Recorder's Court for the City of Detroit in 1977, and to the Wayne Circuit Court in 1978; reelected to the 3rd Judicial Circuit in 1978 and in 1980; president, Old Newsboys, Detroit Goodfellows; past president, Wayne State University Law Alumni Association; recipient of 1984 Distinguished Alumni Award, Wayne State University Law School; recipient, 1985 WSU Distinguished Alumni Award; member of the board of the National Council on Alcoholism, Greater Detroit Area, and also a member of the board and chairman of the National Council on Alcoholism, Inc. of New York; president, NCA/Michigan Division; 33rd degree Mason; State Bar of Michigan Champions of Justice Award, 1990; Wolverine Bar Association Distinguished Jurist Award, 1989; Women's Hall of Fame Phillip A. Hart Award, 1991; Order of the Coif, Wayne State Law School, 1992; Trustee, American Inns of Court Foundation and Michigan State Bar Foundation; chaired Supreme Court Task Force on Racial/Ethnic Issues in the Courts, 1987-1989; member and past president, Detroit Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; advisory board, Johnson Institute Foundation; member, National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; married to Rev. Dr. Lottie V. Jones-Hood, who is the President/CEO of Babesworld, Inc. and Pastor of First Congregational Church of Detroit; four children: Harold Keith Hood, Kenneth Hood, Kevin Hood, and Karen Hood. Appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor William G. Milliken, effective December 27, 1982; reelected in November 1984, 1990, and 1996.



**JUDGE  
KATHLEEN JANSEN**

Term expires January 1, 2007

Of St. Clair Shores, Michigan; graduate of Girls Catholic Central High School; B.S., Michigan State University; J.D., University of Detroit Law School; general practice of law (1977-1982) with Mancini & Blumenthal, P.C., became partner and practiced with the firm until 1982; elected Macomb County Probate Judge, 1982, and served through 1984; elected to Macomb County Circuit Court, 1984, and served through 1989; appointed to the Court of Appeals, 1989, and elected to fill balance of term, 1990; reelected to Court of Appeals, 1994 and 2000; member, State Bar of Michigan, Macomb County Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association, National Association of Women Judges, and Advocates Bar Association; Past President of the Women's Equity Action League — Michigan Chapter.



**JUDGE  
KIRSTEN FRANK KELLY**

Term expires January 1, 2007

Judge Kirsten Frank Kelly was born August 10, 1956, in Elgin, Illinois. She graduated from Ithaca High School in Ithaca, New York, in 1974, from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1978, and from the University of Detroit School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1981. Also in 1981, Judge Kelly joined the Detroit law firm of Durant and Durant, where she practiced civil litigation, and she became a partner in the firm in 1987. Also in 1987, she was elected a municipal judge, and she was twice reelected to that position. After taking time off in 1991 following the birth of her third child, Judge Kelly formed another law firm and practiced both civil and criminal law. In 1994, she was appointed to the Wayne Circuit Court by Governor John Engler. In 1997, Chief Justice Conrad Mallett appointed her presiding judge of the Family Division of the Wayne Circuit Court. Judge Kelly was elected to the Court of Appeals in the 2000 general election. Judge Kelly has served two terms as president of the Michigan Association of Municipal Judges, served on the board of directors of the Michigan District Judges Association, and has been a hearing panel vice chairman for the Attorney Grievance Commission. The judges of the Wayne Circuit Court elected Judge Kelly to serve on the Executive Committee, and she also serves on the Domestic Relations Committee of the Michigan Judges Association. She has been a volunteer with the Legal Alternatives for Women Program, supervising and instructing attorneys and lay volunteers in the proper application and implementation of domestic violence law. Judge Kelly's civic activities include being a member of Leadership Detroit XVII (class of 1995), a charter member of the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary, a member of the Grosse Pointe School System Superintendent's Advisory Committee, and a member of the board of directors of the Substance Abuse Community Council of Grosse Pointe. Judge Kelly and her husband, William B. Kelly, have three children. She and her family attend St. Ambrose Catholic Church.



**JUDGE  
JANE E. MARKEY**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Grand Rapids; born May 27, 1951, at Saginaw; B.A., with high honors in Spanish/Secondary Education, Michigan State University, 1973; J.D., cum laude, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, 1981; editor-in-chief, *Thomas M. Cooley Law Review*; Prehearing Attorney/law clerk, Michigan Court of Appeals, 1981-1982; civil and appellate trial practice, 1982-1990 with the law firms of Baxter & Hammond and Dykema, Gossett (members of Baxter & Hammond formed the Grand Rapids office of Dykema, Gossett in 1984). Elected to the 61st District Court serving the City of Grand Rapids in 1990; reelected in 1992. Member, American Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan; hearing panelist, State of Michigan, Attorney Discipline Board, 1989-1995; member, Michigan State Bar Grievance Committee, 1990-1992; Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation; member, Academic Advisory Committee for District Court, 1993-1995; member, American Judges Association; has served as a faculty member for National Institute of Trial Advocacy, the Hillman Advocacy Program, U.S. District Court, Western District, Michigan Judicial Institute, Institute of Continuing Legal Education. Married to Attorney Curt Benson; two children, Caitlin and Robert. Elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in 1994.



**JUDGE  
GARY R. McDONALD\***

Term expires January 1, 2007

Of Saginaw; born February 3, 1940, at Saginaw; graduate of St. Mary's Cathedral High School, Saginaw; B.B.A., University of Michigan; J.D., Wayne State University Law School; married September 10, 1966; children: Gavin, Stefanie, and Greg; Catholic; member, St. Mary's Cathedral in Saginaw; appointed by Governor William G. Milliken 70th District Court, on February 10, 1972; district judge, 1972-1976; circuit judge, 1976-1987; Fordney Club; member, Michigan State Bar, and Saginaw County Bar Association; appointed by Governor James Blanchard to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, on February 23, 1987; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, November 1988; reelected November 1994, 2000.

\* Resigned effective January 3, 2003.



**JUDGE  
PATRICK MURPHY METER**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Saginaw; born March 17, 1948, in Cleveland, Ohio; attended St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, and graduated from St. Teresa High School in Decatur, Illinois, in 1966; studied one semester at Colegio LaSalle in Arequipa, Peru, as an American Field Service exchange student; educated at the University of Notre Dame, graduating with a B.A. (Spanish) in 1970 and a J.D. in 1973; taught Spanish at the University of Notre Dame at the undergraduate level while attending law school, as well as serving as a juvenile probation officer for two years; married to Barbara Lacasse Meter and is the father of five children; member, Michigan and Texas Bar Associations; admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District; served in the United States Naval Reserves; appointed to the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court bench by Governor Engler in late 1991; elected to a full six-year term in 1992 and again in 1998. From 1973-1984 served Saginaw County as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and then Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney; after prosecutorial service, devoted seven years as an associate and then partner in mid-Michigan law firm of Braun, Kendrick, Finkbeiner, Schafer & Murphy; in past years has served as an instructor and member of the adjunct faculties for Saginaw Valley State University, Delta College, and Concordia College; elected in 1996 to the State Bar Representative Assembly and the Saginaw County Bar Association Board of Directors; president, Saginaw County Bar Association, 1999-2000; Executive Board, Michigan Judges Association; community service over the years has included the Rotary Club, Boy Scouts of America/Law Explorers, Fraternal Order of Police, Greater Michigan Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the Boys and Girls Club; member, St. John Vianney Roman Catholic parish in Saginaw; appointed to Michigan Court of Appeals in 1999.



**JUDGE  
WILLIAM B. MURPHY**

Term expires January 1, 2007

Of Grand Rapids; Aquinas College, 1963-1965; B.A., Michigan State University, 1965-1967; J.D., Wayne State University Law School, 1967-1970, cum laude, Wayne Law Review Board; law clerk, Michigan Court of Appeals, 1970-1971; civil and criminal trial practice, 1971-1988; founding partner, Murphy, Burns, & McInerney, P.C., Grand Rapids, 1973; adjunct professor, Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University; member, American Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan, Grand Rapids Bar Association; president, Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, 1986-1987; president, Kent County Office of the Defender, 1984-1988; trustee, Grand Rapids Bar Association, 1978-1980, 1988-1991; member, Representative Assembly, State Bar of Michigan, 1981-1984; member, State Bar of Michigan, Judicial Qualifications Committee, 1983-1987, 1994-1995; board member, State Bar of Michigan, Negligence Law Section, 1986-1988; member, Wayne State University Law School, Alumni Board of Directors, 1985-1988; president, Grand Rapids Catholic High Schools, Board of Education, 1988-1991; member, executive board, Villa Elizabeth, full-care nursing home for the aged, Grand Rapids, 1979-1985; Catholic Social Services, 1991-1994; member, board of directors, Grand Rapids Urban League, Project Rehab (substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation program) and Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan; member, Irish-American Lawyers Association, Catholic Lawyers Association, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan; fellow, Michigan State Bar Association; married to Paula; children: Bridget, Erin, Meghan, and Kara; appointed to Court of Appeals, 3rd District, March 17, 1988; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in November 1988, 1994, and 2000; elected Chief Judge Pro Tem, 1992 and 1994; elected to Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission, 1995, 1998, and 2001; elected to State Bar Board of Commissioners, 2001.



**JUDGE  
CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Christopher Murray was appointed a judge of the Wayne County Circuit Court on January 10, 2000. In November 2000 he was elected to a six-year term. Since taking the bench Judge Murray has been assigned to the Family Division of the Circuit Court, where he handled domestic relations matters. In January 2002, Judge Murray was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985 at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, and his Juris Doctorate in 1990 at the University of Detroit School of Law in Detroit, Michigan. Prior to taking the bench Judge Murray was in private practice with the Detroit law firm of Keller, Thoma, et al, where he represented school districts, municipalities, and corporations in cases involving employment discrimination, premises liability, and constitutional law. From 1995 to 1997, Judge Murray served as Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor John Engler. While in private practice Judge Murray served from April 1997 to January 2000 as Chairman of the State Board of Ethics, which is the board designated to handle all ethical violation claims against state officers and employees. From April 1998 to January 2000 Judge Murray also served as a member of the Local Government Claims Review Board, the board which hears claims from local governmental entities that the state has violated the Headlee Amendment. Judge Murray has had several articles published in Michigan legal periodicals, including the *Michigan Bar Journal*. Judge Murray is currently a member of the Family Law Committee of the Michigan Judges Association, and is active in the Metropolitan Detroit Bar Association's MELL Project where he speaks with Detroit Public School students about keeping away from drugs, violence, and guns. Judge Murray is married to Bridgette, and has three children: Bailey (age 7), Matthew (age 4), and Griffin (age 3).



**JUDGE  
JANET T. NEFF**

Term expires January 1, 2007

Of East Grand Rapids; B.A., cum laude, University of Pittsburgh, 1967; J.D., Wayne State University Law School, 1970; estate and gift tax examiner, Internal Revenue Service, 1970; law clerk, Court of Appeals, 1970-1971; assistant city attorney, City of Grand Rapids, 1971-1973; associate and partner, VanderVeen, Freihofer and Cook, 1973-1978; special assistant attorney general, Second Injury Fund and the Silicosis and Dust Disease Fund, 1976-1978; commissioner, Michigan Supreme Court, 1978-1980; assistant U.S. attorney, Department of Justice, 1980; private law practice, William G. Reamon, P.C., 1980-1988; former member, board of directors, Easter Seal Society, Women's Resource Center, Junior Achievement, and United Way of Kent County; former member, board of trustees, Winchester Scholarship Fund; former member, Board of Commissioners, State Bar of Michigan; Grand Rapids Bar Association: treasurer, 1985-1987, vice-president, 1987-1988, president-elect, 1988-1989, president, 1989-1990; former member, U.S. District Court Professional Review Committee, Grand Rapids Area Legislative Business Forum, and Kensington Community High School Advisory Board; member, State Bar of Michigan Character and Fitness Committee; board of directors, Kent County Medical Foundation; faculty member, Federal Trial Skills Workshop, Federal Bar Association, Western District of Michigan; member, State Bar of Michigan, Grand Rapids Bar Association, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan; member, Michigan Supreme Court Judicial Information Systems Advisory Commission, Michigan Supreme Court Technical Advisory Group, Board of Governors West Michigan 32<sup>nd</sup> Masonic Learning Center for Children; co-chair, Women Building the Dream With Habitat for Humanity and WLAM, western region; married to David A. Neff, daughters: Genevieve and Meredith; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in November 1988; reelected November 1994 and November 2000.



**JUDGE  
PETER D. O'CONNELL**

Term expires January 1, 2007

Judge Peter D. O'Connell was born August 15, 1948, in Harrison Township, Macomb County. He graduated from Ferndale High School, holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Western Michigan University, a J.D. from the Detroit College of Law and was one of the first three judges in the United States to obtain a Masters of Judicial Studies from the University of Nevada. Judge O'Connell is on the faculty of the Michigan Judicial Institute, the National Judicial College and an adjunct professor at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Judge O'Connell has served 16 years as the 76th District Court Judge. He is a former Chief Assistant Prosecutor in Isabella County and has been a visiting Circuit, District or Probate Judge in 30 Michigan counties. He is past President of the Michigan District Judges Association and has published articles that have appeared in the *Detroit Law Review*, *Criminal Practice Law Review*, *Colleague*, *Benchmarks* and the *Michigan Bar Journal*. Judge O'Connell has lectured extensively on the subject of jury management, jury selection and pre-trial publicity. Judge O'Connell resides in Mt. Pleasant. He was elected to the Court of Appeals on November 8, 1994 and reelected in November 2000.



**JUDGE  
DONALD S. OWENS**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Of Williamston; born December 25, 1943, at Ann Arbor, Michigan; graduate of the University of Michigan: B.A. in Economics 1966, M.B.A. 1967, J.D. 1969; married to Jeanie Leyden Owens; four adult children: Michael, Daniel, Stephen and Elizabeth; in private practice with McLean, Seaman, Laing and Guilford, Lansing, Michigan, 1969-1974; Ingham County Probate Judge, 1974-1999; Chief Judge, 1984-1992, 1996-1999; Ingham County Circuit Court — Family Division Judge, by assignment, 1998-1999; Michigan Guardianship Ombudsman, 2000-2001; named 1999 Michigan Judge of the Year by the Michigan Association of Court Appointed Special Advocates; present and past offices include: President, Michigan Probate Judges Association; President, Ingham County Trial Judges Association; Chair, Judicial Conference of the State Bar of Michigan; Chair, Juvenile Court Rules Committee; Co-Chair, Family Division Joint Court Rules Committee; Chair, Juvenile Law and Adoptions Committee; Chair, Ingham County Election Commission; Chair, Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee, Ingham County Bar Association; Chair, Program and Education Committee, MPJA; Chair, Probate and Trust Law Committee, ICBA; Vice-Chair, Juvenile Law Committee, State Bar of Michigan; Associate Editor, Michigan Probate Judges Association publication *Inter-Com*; Judge of Moot Court Competition for Thomas M. Cooley Law School; Vice-President, Children's Charter of the Courts of Michigan; Co-Chair, Lansing Advisory Committee on Homeless Youth; State Advisor, Michigan Child Studies Association; President, Steele Street School PTO; President, Kiwanis Club of Mason; Deacon, First Presbyterian Church of Lansing; Big Brothers/Big Sisters Advisory Board; present and past memberships include: Michigan Court Forms Committee; Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice; Coleman Commission; Probate and Juvenile Court Docket Tracking Committee; Probate and Juvenile Court Benchbook Steering Committee; Family Court Implementation Task Force; American Bar Association; State Bar of Michigan; Ingham County Bar Association; Michigan Judges Association; Michigan Probate Judges Association; Ingham County Trial Judges Association; National Trust for Historic Preservation; Nature Conservancy; Michigan Association for Emotionally Disturbed Children; N.A.A.C.P.; Urban League; Friends of the Michigan Women's Historical Center; Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect; First Presbyterian Church of Lansing; Lansing Area Safety Council; Kiwanis Club of Mason; Beta Gamma Sigma; Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor; 4-H Softball Coach; AYSO Soccer Coach; lecturer for: Michigan Judicial Institute; Michigan Judges Association; Michigan Probate Judges Association; Institute for Continuing Legal Education; State Bar of Michigan; Michigan Family Independence Agency; Michigan State Police; University of Michigan; Michigan State University; appointed by Governor John Engler to the Court of Appeals, Fourth District, and took office December 1, 1999.



**JUDGE  
HENRY WILLIAM SAAD**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Judge Henry William Saad was born on July 15, 1948, in Detroit. He graduated from Cody High School and received a degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with distinction from Wayne State University in 1971 and graduated magna cum laude with a Juris Doctor degree from Wayne State University in 1974. Judge Saad was an associate with Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman from 1974 until 1981 and a partner of that firm from 1981 to 1994. He has been an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit School of Law, the University of Detroit/Mercy Law School, and the Wayne State University Law School. He has served both as an arbitrator with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission and as a hearing referee with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Judge Saad is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the American, Detroit, and Oakland County Bar Associations, as well as a member of the Arab American Bar Association, in which he served as both treasurer and secretary. He has been involved with New Detroit, Inc., the United Foundation, ABA — Lawyers and Representatives of the Media Catholic Lawyers, and American Arabic and Jewish Friends and has been a board member of the Oakland Community College Foundation, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc., and the Greater Detroit Inter-Faith Round Table of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, as well as having served as president of the Wayne State University Law Alumni Association. Judge Saad is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice and the Federalist Society. He serves on the Board of Trustees of WTVS, Channel 56 and is also a member of the board of directors of the Community Foundation and the American Heart Association. Judge Saad has had articles published in the *Employee Relations Law Journal*, *Management Solutions*, *Michigan Journal*, *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, *Editor & Publisher*, *The Wayne Law Review*, *Michigan Practitioner Series*, *Family Law and Practice* (Chapter on Ethics), and *OCBA Laches*. Judge Saad resides in Bloomfield Hills. He was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor John Engler, effective December 23, 1994, to fill the unexpired term of Judge John Shepherd, a term ending January 1, 1997; reelected November 1996.



**JUDGE  
DAVID H. SAWYER**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Of East Grand Rapids; born July 14, 1947, at Grand Rapids; B.S. in public administration, University of Arizona, 1970; J.D., Valparaiso School of Law, 1973; married to Elsbeth F. Sawyer; children: Brent and Ryan; Episcopalian; former Kent County Prosecuting Attorney, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, and criminal justice teacher, Grand Rapids Junior College; former president, vice president, treasurer, and board member of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan; member, State Bar of Michigan; fellow, State Bar of Michigan; member, Grand Rapids Rotary Club; member, Arizona Letterwinners Association; board member, Senior Meals; past president, West Michigan Air Force Academy Parents' Club; chairman, Kent County Justice Center Task Force, 1997; member, Kent County Courthouse Design Committee, 1998; elected to the Court of Appeals, 3rd District, in 1986 and reelected in 1992 and 1998.



**JUDGE  
MICHAEL R. SMOLENSKI**

Term expires January 1, 2007

Born November 28, 1944 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to J. Robert and Mary B. Smolenski; married to Kathleen Smolenski; seven children; family active in Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Grand Rapids, Michigan; graduate of Grand Rapids Catholic Central, 1962; attended Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1962-1964; B.A., political science, University of Michigan, 1966; graduated University of Michigan Law School, 1969; Kent County Legal Aid Society, June 1969 to December 1969. JAG Officer and Special Court-Martial Judge in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1970-1973; employed by Grand Rapids City Attorney, 1973; general trial practice, Bergstrom, Slykhouse and Shaw, P.C., 1973-1977; partner, in general practice of law with Michael B. Quinn, 1977-1984; appointed by Governor Blanchard to 61st District Court bench replacing his retired father, J. Robert Smolenski, 1984; elected to the Kent County Circuit Court, 1990; elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals, 1994 and reelected in November 2000; served two terms as Kent County Commissioner 1979-1982; founding member, Garfield Park Neighborhood Association, 1973, and Stepping Stones Montessori School, 1982; former member, board of directors, Baxter Community Center; former board member, Dispute Resolution Center; former member, St. John's Home Advisory Board, YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin Board, and Kent County Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee; founding member, New Start Program for treatment of chronic alcoholic repeat offenders; original member, Citizens Advisory Task Force for Community Development in Grand Rapids, 1974.



**JUDGE  
MICHAEL J. TALBOT**

Term expires January 1, 2003

Of Grosse Pointe, born August 8, 1945 in Wayne County, Michigan. He graduated from Divine Child High School in Dearborn in 1963, from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration in 1967, and from the University of Detroit School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1971. He was employed by the Office of the Mayor of the City of Detroit from 1967 to 1969, and he was a member of the Labor Relations Staff for Leaseway Transportation from 1969 to 1972. He served in the United States Army Reserve from 1969 to 1975, graduating from the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia as a Second Lieutenant. From 1972 to 1978, Judge Talbot was a partner in the law firm of Talbot, Grant & McQuarrie. He was appointed to the Common Pleas Court for the City of Detroit by Governor Milliken in April 1978 and to the Recorder's Court for the City of Detroit in 1980. Governor Engler appointed him to the Wayne Circuit Court in 1991 and to the Court of Appeals in 1998 to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Maureen Pulte Reilly. In November of 1998, he was elected to serve the remainder of Judge Reilly's term. Judge Talbot is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the International Academy of Trial Judges, the Incorporated Society of Irish-American Lawyers, and the B'nai B'rith Barristers. He has been chairperson of the Criminal Law Section of the State Bar, a member of the Special Committee, Victims of Crimes, the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, and the Committee of Court Administration. He has received the Crime Prevention Association of Michigan Service Award twice, the State Bar of Michigan Service Award, and the Michigan Corrections Association Judicial Servant Award. He has also served as a member of the faculty of the National Judicial College, a member of the faculty and the Judicial Advisory Board of the National Organization Victim Assistance, and on the boards of Jefferson House (a residential drug treatment facility), Project Transition, Franklin Wright Settlement, and the Parish Council, Annunciation Parish. His community activities include being on the Board of Education for the Archdiocese of Detroit, being on the advisory board, Victims Organized Toward Equity, actively assisting in the drafting and passage of the Victim's Rights Act in Michigan, and being the Housing Commissioner for the City of Detroit from 1975 to 1978.



**JUDGE  
WILLIAM C. WHITBECK**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Judge William C. Whitbeck was born on January 17, 1941, in Holland, Michigan, and was raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan. His undergraduate education was at Northwestern University, where he received a McCormack Scholarship in Journalism. He received his LL.B. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1966, and was admitted to the Michigan Bar in 1969. Judge Whitbeck has held a variety of positions with the state and federal governments, including serving as Administrative Assistant to Governor George Romney from 1966 to 1969, Special Assistant to Secretary George Romney at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1969 to 1970, Area Director of the Detroit Area Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1970 to 1973, Director of Policy of the Michigan Public Service Commission from 1973 to 1975 and Counsel to Governor John Engler for Executive Organization/Director of the Office of the State Employer from 1991 to 1993. He served on the Presidential Transition Team of President-Elect Ronald Reagan in 1980, and as Counsel to the Transition Team of Governor-Elect John Engler in 1990. In private practice, Judge Whitbeck was a partner in the law firm of McLellan, Schlaybaugh & Whitbeck from 1975 to 1982, a partner in the law firm of Dykema, Gossett, Spencer, Goodnow & Trigg from 1982 to 1987, and a partner in the law firm of Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn from 1993 to 1997. Judge Whitbeck is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the American Bar Association, the Ingham County Bar Association, the Castle Park Association, the Michigan Law Revision Commission, the Michigan Historical Center Foundation, the Inns of Court, and the Michigan Historical Commission. He is also a Fellow of both the Michigan State Bar Foundation and the American Bar Foundation. Judge Whitbeck and his wife, Stephanie, reside in downtown Lansing in a 125-year-old historic home that they have completely renovated. They are members of St. Mary Cathedral. Governor John Engler appointed Judge Whitbeck to the Court of Appeals effective October 22, 1997, to a term ending January 1, 1999. Judge Whitbeck was elected in November of 1998 to a term ending January 1, 2005.



**JUDGE  
HELENE N. WHITE**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Of Detroit; born December 2, 1954, in Jackson Heights, New York. Attended Great Neck North Senior High School in Great Neck, New York, graduating in 1972; Barnard College, Columbia University, New York City, 1972-1975, A.B. cum laude; University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, J.D. 1978. Law clerk, Justice Charles L. Levin, Michigan Supreme Court 1978-1980. Elected Judge of the Common Pleas Court for the City of Detroit November 1980. Became 36th District Court judge through court reorganization, September 1981, served through 1982. Elected to Wayne Circuit Court November 1982, reelected in 1988, serving a total of 10 years. Elected to open seat on the Court of Appeals occasioned by retirement of Judge Joseph B. Sullivan, November 1992. Reelected November 1998. Member, State Bar of Michigan, Pennsylvania Bar Association, American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Wolverine Bar Association, Detroit Bar Association, and National Association of Women Judges; serves on boards of Michigan Legal Services; COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelter) (board president 1992-1994); Metropolitan Detroit YWCA; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; National Board of Governors American Jewish Committee (former vice-president Detroit Chapter); advisory boards of Detroit Women's Forum and Sojourner Foundation; Detroit Institute of Arts Founders Junior Council 1990-1997; recipient of the Spirit of Detroit Award and Detroit Human Rights Commission Horizon Award.



**JUDGE  
KURTIS T. WILDER**

Term expires January 1, 2005

Of Wayne County, born April 26, 1959, at Cleveland, Ohio; graduate of Cleveland Heights High School, Cleveland Heights, Ohio; A.B. Political Science, University of Michigan, 1981; J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1984; private practice, Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith, Lansing, 1984-1989, Butzel Long, Detroit, 1989-1992; appointed by Governor John Engler to the 22nd Circuit Court in March 1992 and elected to the 22nd Circuit Court in November 1992 and November 1998; Chief Judge of the 22nd Circuit Court, 1995-1998. Appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals by Governor John Engler effective December 30, 1998, to fill the unexpired term of the late Judge Myron H. Wahls, and elected November 7, 2000, to the Court of Appeals for the balance of the term ending January 1, 2005. Member, Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, Association of Black Judges of Michigan, Wolverine Bar Association, and Federalist Society, Board of Advisors, Lawyers Division - Michigan Chapter; president, Michigan Judges Association; member, State Bar of Michigan Open Justice Commission, State Bar of Michigan Judicial Ethics Subcommittee; life member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Detroit Chapter; member, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity-Gamma Rho Boule; 1st Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, National Kidney Foundation of Michigan; past chairman, State of Michigan Community Corrections Advisory Board; past member and director, Ann Arbor Rotary Club; past member, State Bar of Michigan Criminal Jury Instruction Committee; married to Cindy Wilder, two children.



**JUDGE  
BRIAN K. ZAHRA**

Term expires January 1, 2007

Judge Brian Keith Zahra is married to Suzanne Casey and resides in Northville Township. He was born in Detroit on January 9, 1960. He is a 1977 graduate of Dearborn Divine Child High School; holds a Bachelor of General Studies degree from Wayne State University (1984); and a J.D., cum laude, from University of Detroit School of Law (1987) where he served on the University of Detroit Law Review (1986-1987). Judge Zahra served as law clerk to the Honorable Lawrence P. Zatkoff, United States District Judge, Eastern District of Michigan (1987-1989) before joining and becoming a partner with Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman (1989-1994). Judge Zahra is an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit/Mercy Law School. Judge Zahra serves on the Court Rules Committee of the Michigan Judges Association and co-authored the chapter on Judgments for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education's publication *Michigan Civil Procedure* (1999). He served on the Domestic Violence Legislation Implementation Task Force (1995-1997) and on the advisory committee for the Michigan Judicial Institute Domestic Violence Benchbook (1998). Judge Zahra is a member of the Kiwanis Club International, the Federalist Society, the Catholic Lawyers Society, the Detroit Community Initiative, Leadership Detroit, Boys & Girls Club/Alumni Association, the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Maltese American Benevolent Society, and the Maltese American Community Club. Judge Zahra was appointed to the Third Circuit Court by Governor John Engler on December 20, 1994, and elected to the Circuit Court in 1996. Governor Engler appointed Judge Zahra to the Michigan Court of Appeals on January 1, 1999. Judge Zahra was elected to the Court of Appeals in November 2000.

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