

JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

1st District

Term expires

KAREN FORT HOOD, Detroit	Jan. 1, 2015
KIRSTEN FRANK KELLY, Grosse Pointe Park	Jan. 1, 2013
CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY, Grosse Pointe Farms	Jan. 1, 2015
CYNTHIA DIANE STEPHENS, Detroit	Jan. 1, 2011
MICHAEL J. TALBOT, Grosse Pointe	Jan. 1, 2015
KURTIS T. WILDER, Canton	Jan. 1, 2011
BRIAN K. ZAHRA, Northville Township	Jan. 1, 2013

2nd District

MARK J. CAVANAGH, Royal Oak	Jan. 1, 2015
PAT M. DONOFRIO, Clinton Township	Jan. 1, 2011
E. THOMAS FITZGERALD, Owosso	Jan. 1, 2015
ELIZABETH L. GLEICHER, Pleasant Ridge	Jan. 1, 2013
KATHLEEN JANSEN, St. Clair Shores	Jan. 1, 2013
HENRY WILLIAM SAAD, Birmingham	Jan. 1, 2015
DEBORAH A. SERVITTO, Royal Oak	Jan. 1, 2013

3rd District

RICHARD A. BANDSTRA, Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2015
JANE M. BECKERING, Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2013
JOEL P. HOEKSTRA, Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2011
JANE E. MARKEY, Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2015
WILLIAM B. MURPHY, East Grand Rapids, Chief Judge	Jan. 1, 2013
DAVID H. SAWYER, East Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2011
DOUGLAS B. SHAPIRO, Ann Arbor	Jan. 1, 2011

4th District

STEPHEN L. BORRELLO, Saginaw	Jan. 1, 2013
ALTON T. DAVIS, Grayling	Jan. 1, 2015
MICHAEL J. KELLY, Maple City	Jan. 1, 2015
PATRICK M. METER, Saginaw	Jan. 1, 2015
PETER D. O'CONNELL, Mt. Pleasant	Jan. 1, 2013
DONALD S. OWENS, Williamston	Jan. 1, 2011
WILLIAM C. WHITBECK, Lansing	Jan. 1, 2011

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES¹

First District Judges

JUDGE

KAREN FORT HOOD

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Hood was elected to the Court in 2002. She was born in Detroit, Michigan, and received her undergraduate degree in 1980 from the Regents College of the University of the State of New York at Albany and her law degree in 1989 from the Detroit College of Law. Judge Hood's professional affiliations include the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, the Wolverine Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the MSU College of Law Alumni Association, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

JUDGE

KIRSTEN FRANK KELLY

Term expires January 1, 2013

Judge Kelly was elected to the Court in 2000. Previously, she was a municipal judge (3 terms), a judge of the Wayne Circuit Court, and presiding judge of the Family Division of the Wayne Circuit Court. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University in 1978 and a Juris Doctor degree from University of Detroit School of Law in 1981.

JUDGE

CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Murray was appointed to the Court in 2002. Previously, he served as a judge on the Wayne Circuit Court in the Family Division, as Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor John M. Engler, and as an attorney in private practice. Judge Murray is the former chairman of the State Board of Ethics and has served as a member of the Local Government Claims Review Board. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, the Catholic Lawyers Society, and is a member of the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions.

JUDGE

CYNTHIA DIANE STEPHENS

Term expires January 1, 2011

Judge Stephens was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2008. Prior to that appointment, she served as a general jurisdiction trial judge for 23 years. She was appointed to the Wayne County Circuit Court in 1985, after serving as a judge of the 36th District Court. Judge Stephens was the Chief Judge Pro Tempore, Mediation Tribunal Chair and presiding civil division judge of Wayne County Circuit Court for 8 years.

An Emory Law School graduate, Judge Stephens has been admitted to practice in Georgia, Texas, and Michigan. Prior to her election to the bench in 1981, she served as vice-chair of the Wayne County Charter Commission, Associate General Counsel to the Michigan Senate, Regional Director for the National Conference of Black Lawyers Atlanta office, and consultant to the National League of Cities Veterans Discharge Upgrade Project.

She has been active in bar work, including 16 years as a Commissioner of the State Bar of Michigan, chairing its Justice Initiatives Committee, Communications Committee, and Children's Task Force. Judge Stephens is a former chair of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, a former member of the executive Board of the National Bar Association and its Judicial Council and a member of the American Bar Association. She was awarded the State Bar of Michigan's highest honor, the Roberts P. Hudson Award, in 2005.

¹ Source: <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/AboutCourt/biography.htm>

Judge Stephens has served as adjunct faculty at Wayne State University Law School, the Detroit College of Law, and the University of Detroit Mercy Law School. She has also served as a faculty member for the National Judicial College and the Michigan Judicial Institute. She was a contributing author to the Lawyers Cooperative's Michigan Nonstandard Jury Instructions, as well as numerous articles on subjects ranging from jury selection to ethics.

Judge Stephens has served on numerous civic boards and commissions, including New Detroit, the Inner City Business Improvement Forum, the Detroit Metropolitan Association Board of Trustees for the United Church of Christ, the Greater Detroit Area Health Care Council, and the Girl Scouts. She is a resident of Detroit.

**JUDGE
MICHAEL J. TALBOT**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Talbot was appointed to the Court in 1998. Previously, Judge Talbot had been appointed by governors of Michigan to serve as a judge of the Wayne Circuit, Detroit Recorder's, and Detroit Common Pleas courts. Judge Talbot also worked as an attorney in private practice. He was a member of the Judicial Tenure Commission from 2004 to 2010 and presently serves by appointment of the Michigan Supreme Court as chair of the Court Reporting Board of Review. Judge Talbot is a Trustee of Madonna University, Sacred Heart Major Seminary and the AOD Endowment Fund. He is the past chair of the Board of Education for the Archdiocese of Detroit and presently serves as Chair of the AOD Review Board. Judge Talbot received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and his law degree from the University of Detroit.

**JUDGE
KURTIS T. WILDER**

Term expires January 1, 2011

Kurtis T. Wilder serves as one of 28 judges on the Michigan Court of Appeals. He was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor John M. Engler in December, 1998, elected in 2000 and reelected in 2004. Previously, Judge Wilder served as chief judge of the Washtenaw County Trial Court. Judge Wilder holds memberships in the State Bar of Michigan; the Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation; the Michigan Judges Association; the Association of Black Judges of Michigan; the Federalist Society; and the Wolverine Bar Association. He is a former chairperson of the State of Michigan Community Corrections Advisory Board, and previously served as a member of the State Bar of Michigan standing committee on justice initiatives, and the State Bar's Judicial Ethics Subcommittee.

Judge Wilder serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW), Trustee of the Interlochen Center for the Arts, and chair of Interlochen's Audit Committee and Diversity Committee, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Sphinx Organization, and a member of the President's Advisory Council at Walsh College.

**JUDGE
BRIAN K. ZAHRA**

Term expires January 1, 2013

Judge Zahra was appointed to the Court in 1999. Previously, he served as a judge of the Wayne Circuit Court, a law clerk to US District Court Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff, an adjunct professor at University of Detroit Law School, and an attorney in private practice. He received his bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and his law degree from the University of Detroit Law School. He has served on numerous legal committees and boards. His current appointments include service on the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions and the Michigan Board of Law Examiners.

Second District Judges

JUDGE

MARK J. CAVANAGH

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Cavanagh was elected to the Court in 1988. Previously, he worked as a special assistant attorney general, as an assistant Wayne County prosecutor, and as an attorney in private practice. Judge Cavanagh received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and his law degree from the Detroit College of Law.

JUDGE

PAT M. DONOFRIO

Term expires January 1, 2011

Of Macomb Township; Judge Donofrio was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2002 and elected in 2004. He previously served as a Macomb County Circuit Court Judge after appointment and election in 1997 and 1998 respectively. From 1998 until appointment to the Michigan Court of Appeals he served as the presiding judge of the civil/criminal division of the circuit court. Judge Donofrio received a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University in 1967 and earned his Juris Doctor degree from the Wayne State University Law School in 1970. At the time of entry into the judiciary, Judge Donofrio served as president of a major litigation law firm. Judge Donofrio is a member of the Michigan Judges Association, American Judges Association, the State Bar of Michigan and several local bar associations. He currently sits on the Judicial Crossroads Task Force, a sanctioned independent organization endeavoring to create structural efficiencies and reduce costs across the entire judiciary. Judge Donofrio serves as Chancellor of the American Inn of Court, Oakland County Bar division, an organization dedicated to the training of new lawyers in the effective and ethical practice of law. Judge Donofrio serves as chairman of the Court of Appeals settlement committee, and has served on both the executive and delay reduction committees. He has served on the faculty at the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the National Judicial College, and the Michigan Judicial Institute. Judge Donofrio served three terms on the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions and served on the Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on Trial Court Performance Standards. He has earned certificates of accomplishment from the National Judicial College and the National Drug Court Institute. Judge Donofrio has presented numerous guest lectures. He is married with 2 children and one grandchild.

JUDGE

E. THOMAS FITZGERALD

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Fitzgerald was elected to the Court of Appeals in 1990. He was subsequently reelected in 1996, 2002, and 2008. He was previously on the faculty of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School and he worked as an attorney in private practice. Judge Fitzgerald received his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Detroit. He is a member of the American Bar Association, State Bar Association, Shiawassee County Bar Association, and the Michigan Judges Association.

JUDGE

ELIZABETH L. GLEICHER

Term expires January 1, 2013

Judge Gleicher was appointed to the Court in 2007. Previously, she was an attorney in private practice for 27 years. She began her career at Goodman, Eden, Millender & Bedrosian in Detroit, and opened her own litigation practice in 1994. She is an elected Fellow of the International Society of Barristers (2004) and the American College of Trial Lawyers (2005). She received the Respected Advocate Award from the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel in 2005 and the State Bar of Michigan Champion of Justice Award in 2001. Judge Gleicher has served on the faculty of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education and as an adjunct professor at Wayne State University Law School. She received her bachelor's degree from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and her law degree from Wayne State University Law School.

JUDGE**KATHLEEN JANSEN**

Term expires January 1, 2013

Judge Jansen was appointed to the Court in 1989. Judge Jansen was the first woman elected countywide to the Macomb County courts, first to the Macomb County Probate Court in 1982, and then to the Macomb County Circuit Court in 1984. She also worked as an attorney in private practice. Judge Jansen received her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and her law degree from the University of Detroit Law School.

JUDGE**HENRY WILLIAM SAAD**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Saad was appointed to the Court in 1994, was elected for a 6-year term in 1996, and was reelected in 2002 and 2008. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Saad was a partner at Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman, where he practiced law for 20 years. He was also an arbitrator for the Michigan Employment Relations Commission and a hearing referee for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Judge Saad received his bachelor's degree from Wayne State University School of Business with honors and his law degree from Wayne State University, magna cum laude.

Judge Saad served as an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit/Mercy School of Law and Wayne State University Law School where he taught Evidence, Professional Responsibility and Labor Law. Judge Saad served on the boards of Detroit Public Television and the American Heart Association. He currently serves on the board of Brother Rice High School. In 1992, President George H. W. Bush nominated Judge Saad to the federal district court and in 2001, 2003 and 2005, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Saad to the federal appellate bench.

JUDGE**DEBORAH A. SERVITTO**

Term expires January 1, 2013

Judge Deborah A. Servitto was born February 17, 1956, in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Oakland University in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and from the Detroit College of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1982.

She served from 1982 to 1986 as the first female assistant city attorney for the city of Warren. In 1986, Judge Servitto was elected to the 37th District Court. Governor James J. Blanchard appointed Judge Servitto to the Macomb Circuit Court in 1990, and she subsequently was elected 3 times to that court. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm appointed Judge Servitto to the Court of Appeals effective March 23, 2006, to replace Judge Hilda R. Gage.

During her tenure as a circuit judge, Judge Servitto was instrumental in implementing innovative programs, such as a seminar for divorcing parents aimed at helping their children cope with divorce and a drug court program that provides treatment and intensive supervision to nonviolent, drug-addicted felons. She was also one of the founding directors of Care House, a child-friendly haven for young victims of sexual and physical abuse.

Judge Servitto was honored by the March of Dimes in 1991 as the Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year. In 1996, as an American of Italian descent, she was honored as Woman of the Year by the Columbus Day Committee. The Macomb County Resolution Center awarded Judge Servitto the 2001 Conflict Resolution Advocacy Award for encouraging the amicable resolution of disputes. In 2006, the Warren Family YMCA awarded Judge Servitto its first Community Leader Award.

In November, 2006, Judge Servitto was elected to a full 6-year term to the Court of Appeals, District 2, which includes the counties of Macomb, Oakland, Genesee and Shiawassee.

Third District Judges

JUDGE

RICHARD A. BANDSTRA

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Bandstra was elected to the Court in 1994; he served as its Chief Judge Pro Tem from 1996 to 1997 and as its Chief Judge from 1998 to 2001. As a judge, he worked in Bratislava during 1998 and in 1999 on an ABA project that helped develop legislation to establish independence for the Slovakian courts. Before taking the bench, Judge Bandstra was a member of the Michigan State House of Representatives with a constituency in Grand Rapids. While in Lansing, he served on the House Judiciary Committee, helped draft the power sharing agreement by which the equally split House chamber was jointly controlled by Republicans and Democrats from 1993 to 1994 and served as Floor Leader during that period. Judge Bandstra was previously an attorney in private practice with Warner, Norcross and Judd. He received his law degree and a master's degree in sociology from the University of Chicago, where he served on the Law Review. Judge Bandstra earned his bachelor's degree at Calvin College in Grand Rapids.

JUDGE

JANE M. BECKERING

Term expires January 1, 2013

Judge Beckering was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2007 and elected in 2008. Before taking the bench, Judge Beckering was an attorney in private practice for 17 years. She began her career at McDermott, Will & Emery, P.C. in Chicago, Illinois, before she returned to her hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan and later founded the law firm of Buchanan & Beckering, PLC. She received her undergraduate degree (with distinction) from the University of Michigan and her law degree (cum laude) from the University of Wisconsin. Judge Beckering is a member of the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions and an Executive Committee Member of the Michigan Judges Association. She is also a member of the Steering Committee for the Hillman Trial Advocacy Program and a participant in the National Research Judge Program run by the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center (ASTAR).

JUDGE

JOEL P. HOEKSTRA

Term expires January 1, 2011

Judge Hoekstra was elected to the Court in 1994. Previously, he worked as an assistant Kent County prosecuting attorney, as a district court judge, and as an adjunct faculty member of Calvin College. Judge Hoekstra received his bachelor's degree from Calvin College and his law degree from Valparaiso University.

JUDGE

JANE E. MARKEY

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Markey was elected to the Court in 1994. Previously, she had served as a district court judge, she was a prehearing attorney and law clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals, and she worked as an attorney in private practice. Judge Markey received her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and her law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

JUDGE

WILLIAM B. MURPHY

Term expires January 1, 2013

Judge Murphy was appointed to the Court in 1988, where he served as the Chief Judge Pro Tem from 1992-1996. Judge Murphy currently serves as Chief Judge of the Court. Previously, he was a member of the East Grand Rapids City Commission, a law clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals, and he worked as an attorney in private practice. Judge Murphy received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and his law degree (cum laude) from Wayne State University, where he served as a member of The Law Review.

JUDGE

DAVID H. SAWYER

Term expires January 1, 2011

Judge Sawyer was elected to the Court in 1986. Previously, he was the Kent County Prosecuting Attorney and President of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan. Judge Sawyer received his bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona and his law degree from Valparaiso School of Law.

JUDGE

DOUGLAS B. SHAPIRO

Term expires January 1, 2011

Judge Shapiro was appointed to the Court in 2009. Before taking the bench, Judge Shapiro was a partner in the law firm of Muth and Shapiro, P.C., where he practiced civil litigation in both trial and appellate courts for 17 years. Earlier in his career he served as an Assistant Defender with the State Appellate Defender Office, focusing on criminal appeals. He began his career as a law clerk to State Supreme Court Justice James H. Brickley. Judge Shapiro received his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Michigan in 1983 and his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1986.

Fourth District Judges

JUDGE

STEPHEN L. BORRELLO

Term expires January 1, 2013

Judge Borrello was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2003, elected in 2004 and reelected in 2006. He served as an attorney and partner with the law firm Gilbert, Smith & Borrello, P.C. in Saginaw, Michigan. Judge Borrello also served as an assistant prosecuting attorney from 1988 to 1990 in Saginaw County. He earned his B.A. from Albion College and his J.D. from the Detroit College of Law. He is currently an adjunct professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Saginaw Valley State University where he teaches Criminal Procedure and Evidence.

JUDGE

ALTON T. DAVIS

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Alton Thomas Davis was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm on July 14, 2005. He was subsequently elected to the Court in 2006 and again in 2008. Judge Davis had served as a visiting judge on the Court of Appeals on several different occasions from 1985 to 1996.

At the time of his appointment, Judge Davis was the Chief Judge of the 46th Judicial Circuit of Michigan, which encompasses Otsego, Crawford, and Kalkaska counties. He was in his twenty-first year on that bench and seventeenth year as Chief Judge.

Prior to his election to the trial bench, Judge Davis was in private practice for 10 years. During that period of time, he also served for 4 years as Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and then Prosecuting Attorney in Crawford County.

Judge Davis has been involved in the following professional, public, and civic capacities: State Bar of Michigan, November 7, 1974; former President of the 46th Circuit Bar Association, 1981 and 1982; member, Michigan Trial Lawyers Association; Chairman, State Bar of Michigan Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions, 1995, 1998; Chief Judge, 46th Circuit Trial Court Demonstration Project, June 1996 to July 2005; member, American Judges Association; member, Sigma Nu Phi Fraternity Legal; former chairman, Crawford County Democratic Party, 1980 through March 1984; Regional Coordinator for Governor James J. Blanchard during his first campaign; trustee, Michigan State Building Authority, by appointment of Governor James Blanchard; member, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Grayling; trustee, Inland Lakes High School Educational Foundation, 1988 to 1990; past president, and former director, Rotary International, Grayling, Michigan; Paul Harris Fellow; adjunct instructor, Kirtland Community College, 1987 to 1990; member, Fraternal Order of Elks; member, former director, and Past-President, Crawford County Fair Board, 1984 to 1999; member, Rules Committee, Michigan Judges Association; member, Michigan Judges Association Executive Board, 1995 to present; Chairman, Michigan Judges Association Legislative Committee, 1999; Michigan Judges Association: Treasurer, 1999 to 2000, Secretary, 2000 to 2001, Vice-President, 2002, President-Elect, 2003, President, 2004, Past-President, 2005; member, Chief Justices Council of Chief Judges; Chairman, Michigan Joint Judicial Conference, 2009; Michigan Supreme Court Collections Committee, 2004 to present; staff participant, New Judicial College, DuBois, Wyoming, 2000 to present; Chairman, Michigan Court of Appeals Education Committee, 2005 to present; board member, Michigan Judges Retirement Fund by gubernatorial appointment, 2005 to present.

Judge Davis is a graduate of Detroit College of Law, Western Michigan University, North Central Michigan College, and Inland Lakes High School. He is married to Sandra Kay Shellfish of Detroit. They have 2 daughters, Brion Colleen Davis-Thompson and Colby Galen Davis-Chilcote. Their son-in-law, Jason Ross Thompson, is a member of the State Bar of Michigan. They have one grandson, Benjamin Henry Thompson, born September 2, 2004. Judge and Mrs. Davis reside in Grayling, Michigan.

**JUDGE
MICHAEL J. KELLY**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Kelly was elected to the Court of Appeals in 2008. After serving as a judicial advisory assistant to a circuit court judge, he worked as a trial lawyer in private practice for 20 years. He attended Michigan State University and earned his B.A. from the University of Michigan – Flint in 1984. Following his enrollment at the Detroit College of Law, he was accepted as a participant in the London Law Program at Regents College in London, England in 1987 and received his J.D. from the D.C.L. in 1988.

**JUDGE
PATRICK M. METER**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Meter was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1999. Previously, he served as a judge of the Saginaw Circuit Court, and he worked as a prosecuting attorney for Saginaw County and as an attorney in private practice. Judge Meter received his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Notre Dame.

JUDGE

PETER D. O'CONNELL

Term expires January 1, 2013

Judge Peter D. O'Connell was elected in 1994 and currently serves on the Michigan Court of Appeals in the Hall of Justice in Lansing, Michigan. He was a trial court judge for 16 years prior to his election to the Court of Appeals and also served as the Chief Assistant Prosecutor in Isabella County. He holds a Juris Doctorate from Detroit College of Law and was the first trial judge in the State of Michigan to obtain a Master's of Judicial Studies Degree from the University of Nevada-Reno. He has served on the faculty of the Michigan Judicial Institute, the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, and the National Judicial College. Judge O'Connell has also served as an instructor at New Judges School and is an adjunct professor at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Judge O'Connell has authored articles in the *Detroit Law Review*, *Criminal Practice Law Review*, *Colleague*, *Benchmark*, *Michigan Bar Journal*, and the case book entitled *Social Science in the Law*.

Judge O'Connell has been on the bench since 1979.

JUDGE

DONALD S. OWENS

Term expires January 1, 2011

Judge Owens was appointed to the Court in 1999, elected in 2000, and reelected in 2004. Previously, he served as judge of the Ingham County Probate Court from 1974 to 1999. Before that, he was an attorney in private practice in Lansing. Judge Owens received his bachelor's, master's and law degrees from the University of Michigan.

JUDGE

WILLIAM C. WHITBECK

Term expires January 1, 2011

Judge William C. Whitbeck has served with distinction on the Michigan Court of Appeals since Governor Engler appointed him in 1997. Judge Whitbeck was elected in 1998 and reelected in 2004. He will run for reelection in 2010. In the past 12 years on the bench, Judge Whitbeck served 6 years as Chief Judge and 2 years as Chief Judge Pro Tem.

In private practice for over 20 years, Judge Whitbeck was a partner in the law firms of Honigman Miller, Dykema Gossett, and McLellan, Schlaybaugh & Whitbeck.

Judge Whitbeck also served in the administrations of three Michigan Governors: George Romney, William G. Milliken, and John M. Engler. He served on the transition teams of President Ronald Reagan and Governor Engler. Judge Whitbeck served in the U.S. Army Reserves for 6 years and was honorably discharged in 1972.

Judge Whitbeck was an assistant to Governor Romney, Special Assistant to Secretary Romney at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Area Director of the Detroit Office of H.U.D. In the Milliken administration, he served as Director of Policy in the Michigan Public Service Commission. He served as Counsel to Governor Engler for Executive Organization and Director of the Office of State Employer.

Judge Whitbeck is a member of the Michigan State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Ingham County Bar Association, the Michigan Judges Association, the Michigan Law Revision Commission, and Scribes. He is a Fellow of the Michigan State Bar and ABA Foundations. He is a past chairman of the Administrative Law Section of the Michigan State Bar Association. He is a "Master of the Bench" and past President of the American Inns of Court Chapter at the MSU College of Law. He is also a past chair of the Michigan Historical Commission.

Judge Whitbeck graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1966 and Northwestern University School of Journalism in 1963. Judge Whitbeck and his wife are members of St. Mary Cathedral. They reside in Lansing's capitol district in their historic 1878 home. Judge Whitbeck has written his first legal mystery, *To Account for Murder*, which will be published in November 2010.