

Circuit court candidates list qualifications

Who are the eight candidates for four-year terms on the Oakland County Circuit Court bench?

Are they qualified to earn \$19,950 a year?

The candidates provided the following biographical information:

DAVID F. BRECK Brock, 46, of 132 W. 1st Birmingham has been a practicing attorney for 10 years. He graduated from Michigan State University and the University of Michigan Law School. A Birmingham city commissioner for 4 years, Brock served two terms as mayor. He was director of the Suburban Metropolitan Transportation Authority (SEMTA).

for seven years and chairman of the SEMTA board in 1971.

He was an Oakland County assistant prosecutor for two years and is a member of various bar associations, the American Trial Lawyers Association, the Birmingham-Bloomfield Human Relations Council and other organizations.

ROBERT W. CURR Carr, 47, 7300 McCord Lake Rd. Waterford has practiced law for 15 years. He received a BA from the University of Michigan and MA from the University of Pittsburgh and a law degree from Detroit College of Law. He is a partner in the law firm of Peres, Carr, Jacques, Barenak and Schmidt, Carr.

is a former Oakland County prosecuting attorney and Independence Township justice of the peace. He belongs to various professional and civic organizations.

S. JAMES CLARKSON Clarkson, 51, 2325 Valley View Dr. Southfield is a judge of the 4th District Court which serves Southfield.

A graduate of Northeastern University and Detroit College of Law, Clarkson was a state representative in 1959 and 1960 and mayor of Southfield from 1961-1969.

He was elected to the district court in 1969 and re-elected in 1973 and is a member of various bar associations and the Michigan Judges Association. He is a board member of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center.

ALICE L. GILBERT Ms. Gilbert, 41, is a Birmingham resident. She has been a judge for 15 years and is 4th District Court judge. She was a practicing attorney for 12 years.

Ms. Gilbert attended Wellesley College, Northeastern University, Wayne State University and the University of Detroit Law School. She also attended Harvard Graduate School and the University of Nevada National College of State Judges.

Ms. Gilbert is a former president of the Michigan and Oakland County district judges associations.

BERNARD L. KAUFMAN Kaufman, 46, 384 Garidge Lane, West Bloomfield, has been a trial and appellate attorney for 21 years.

Kaufman received his BA and law degrees from Wayne State University. He is an associate editor of the Journal of the American Trial Lawyers Association and has been appointed an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association.

Kaufman has also been counsel to a special panel of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions. He is a member of the West Bloomfield Optimists and Greater West Bloomfield Human Relations Council.

FRANCIS X. O'BRIEN O'Brien, 43, lives at 2014 Glenview, Royal Oak. He is a judge for the 4th District Court which serves Royal Oak.

O'Brien received his BA and law degrees from the University of Detroit. He was a practicing attorney prior to his election to the bench in 1973.

O'Brien is a former chief deputy oak

land County Clerk and is a member of several bar and judges associations. He is affiliated with various Royal Oak civic organizations.

JAMES S. THORBURN Thorburn, 57, is a Bloomfield Hills resident and graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan Law School.

Thorburn is serving his third term on the circuit court bench, prior to which he practiced law for 29 years. He is a former member and president of the Royal Oak school board and city attorney for Pleasant Ridge and Huntington Woods.

ROBERT B. WEBSTER Webster, 44, 2050 W. Fourteen Mile, Birmingham, graduated from the University of Michigan and the University of Michigan Law School. He was appointed to the circuit court bench in 1973 by Gov. William Milliken.

and was elected to the post the following year.

Webster is a former member of the Oakland County mental health board and is affiliated with Family and Children Services of Oakland County.

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SAT scores go down every year

Anyone who believes that kids are getting smarter all the time should take a look at Scholastic Aptitude Test scores for high school seniors over the past 10 years.

Some have been plummeting steadily on both the mathematical and verbal sections of the test, which is taken every year by college-bound seniors.

The scores have declined at a steeper rate on the mathematical portion of the SAT than on the verbal section. In 1967, the average mathematical score was 442, compared to 422 in 1976. Verbal scores dropped even more, from 466 in 1967 to 431 in 1976.

SAT data also shows that women traditionally score lower in the mathematical sections than in the verbal, and are now doing just the reverse. In 1967, the average verbal SAT score for women was 468, the average math score 467. The gap between the two categories has widened considerably. In 1976, female high school seniors scored 446 in math, 470 in verbal.

Male high school seniors have always scored higher in the math section of the SAT. In 1967, the average score for males was 463 in verbal, 514 in math. In 1976, males scored 431 in verbal and 476 in math.

THE DECLINE in SAT scores for college-bound seniors is modest compared to the decline for all tests taken.

Data pooled from average test scores for all tests taken since 1971, which include scores for aptitude, general surveys and for students who took the test more than once in a year, show a total decline

of 4.4 points in verbal and 12 in math. The overall scores dropped from 473 in verbal, 46 in math in 1967 to 429 in verbal and 430 in math for 1976.

The difference in averages for 1976 seniors and for all tests taken in the 1975-76 school year is due in large part to the fact that scores from juniors are included in the latter averages. These juniors had lower scores, by seven points on the verbal and four points on the math section, than the 1976 graduates who took the test as seniors.

Many of these students who were juniors in 1975-76 will take the SAT again as seniors, gaining an average of 13 points. One other testing fact from overall SAT test data: Between 1962 and 1964, test scores were averaging 476 verbal and 500 math, higher than at any point in test history.

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