

Bench seats draw host of hopefuls...

Four incumbents and 14 newcomers are candidates in the Aug. 8 primary election for six Oakland County Circuit Court judgeships.

Three incumbents, all from Bloomfield Hills, will run unopposed. They are Chief Judge Steven Andrews, 2224 Whittier Dr., Judge Robert Temple, 300 Lakeland Lane, and Judge Farrell Roberts, 1311 Porters Lane.

Incumbent Judge William J. Beer, 1591 Beverly Blvd., Berkeley, along with 14 other candidates, is seeking

one of three newly-created circuit court posts.

Only six of the 15 will qualify in the primary for the November election.

Circuit judge candidates, who run on a non-partisan basis, must be lawyers and under 70 years of age to be elected. Beer's current term will expire after his 70th birthday. By running for a new full term while still in his late 60s, he will be able to postpone retirement. If elected to one of the new seats, he would resign his present

post, which would be filled by a governor appointee.

The state legislature recently created the new judgeships to prevent a large build-up of civil and criminal cases in the county.

Other candidates for the three new six-year judgeships include: Mildred V. Alich, 643 Fieldstone Dr., Rochester; Robert Anderson, 2570 Silverside Rd., Pontiac; Stuart Brickner, 6408 Pinetree, West Bloomfield; Robert Cunningham, 372 W. Huron, Pontiac;

Judith Dorian, 3288 Chatham Lane, Franklin; Michael S. Friedman, 4772 Brainerd, Bloomfield Hills; Hilda Gage, 1753 Ascot Ct., Bloomfield Hills; Bernard Kaufman, 5394 Claridge Lane, West Bloomfield; Bruce Keidan, 641 Powderhorn Dr., West Bloomfield; Albert Kramer, 2351 Radcliff, Oak Park; Oakland County Circuit Court Administrator Fred Mester, 8165 Hendrie, Huntington Woods; William Ortmann, Sr., 28010 S. Hartwich, Farmington Hills; Gene Schnelz, 1956 Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake and Robert Williams, 1488 Cedar, Birmingham.

...But brew a debate over Beer

The Oakland County Circuit Court race is less than a week old, but controversies have already blossomed. Michael S. Friedman, a Southfield attorney and one of more than a dozen persons running for three newly-created circuit court judgeships, has filed law suits in Oakland County Circuit Court and the Michigan Court of Appeals to try to knock another candidate, Judge William Beer, off the ballot.

Beer, a 69-year-old incumbent circuit court judge, took advantage of a loophole in the law which created the new court seats for Oakland. If Beer is elected to one of the new seats, he would sidestep the law that would make him ineligible to run for reelection when his current term expires in 1980.

If elected to one of the new seats, Beer could serve until 1984.

The controversy surrounds the fact that Beer filed for the new seat on the circuit court bench as an incumbent.

FRIEDMAN CONTENDS that Beer cannot file as an incumbent because the seats for which he is filing are new and cannot have been previously held by anyone.

An incumbent to a judgeship does not have to file 2,800 signatures to have his name placed on the ballot. Incumbents merely have to file a form to be put on the ballot.

The names of incumbent judges are also put in a special section on the ballot so that voters know they are judges.

Beer, if the court agrees with Friedman, could be disqualified from the election for not filing the necessary petitions.

Friedman's circuit court suit has been assigned to Judge Frederick Ziem and is scheduled for a hearing June 21.

ANOTHER CANDIDATE, West Bloomfield attorney Stuart Brickner, said he will not accept any campaign

contributions from lawyers or seated judges.

Brickner, who made an unsuccessful bid for circuit court in 1974 and could not get on the ballot in 1976, maintains that it is bad practice for lawyers to contribute to the campaigns for judges before whom they will be appearing.

The West Bloomfield attorney said that in many cases, upwards of 90 per cent of the judicial candidate's campaign funds is collected from lawyers.

Brickner has also asked the other candidates to refuse the campaign contributions of Oakland County attorneys.

OCC academy graduates 36

The Oakland Police Academy graduated 36 officers in its 29th commencement last week.

The academy is part of Oakland Community College (OCC).

Among the graduates were: Donald Anderson of Southfield, Richard Hawkins of Troy, Deborah Horner of Farmington, Robert Johnson of Livonia, Lawrence Wesson of Walled Lake and Thomas Zedon of Livonia.



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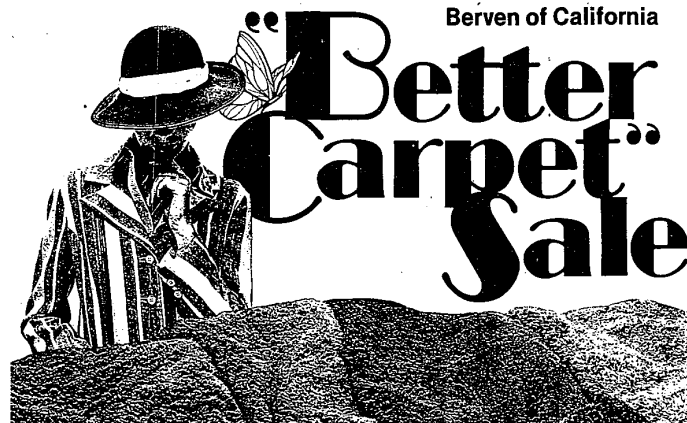
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