

District Court judge

District courts have exclusive jurisdiction over civil cases up to \$10,000 and minor criminal cases. In Oakland County, a district court may cover one to a dozen communities. Candidates were asked to submit their biographies in 35 words or less and to answer the following questions in 50 words or less:

1. What practical and specific ideas do you have for improving the flow of work through the court?
2. Under what circumstances would you ever close a courtroom to the public and/or suppress a case?
3. As judge, what working hours would you keep on a daily, weekly and monthly basis?
4. What is your opinion of making sentencing guidelines more restrictive than those currently mandated by the Michigan Supreme Court?

47th District Court

Includes cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

RONALD GOLDSTEIN, 53, Farmington Hills, B.A. and J.D., Wayne State University with over 25 years general practice. Extensive trial practice; criminal law, domestic relations and other civil matters. Experience in all Michigan trial court levels.

1. Trials and all other non-record matters will be heard at 8 a.m. on the bench at 9 a.m. compulsory mediation and/or stipulated arbitration, volunteer mediators to resolve small claims matters. If possible, night court for civil infractions.

2. Sex crimes where the victim is of a tender age or a very distraught person. This would enable the victim to testify without the extra embarrassment of strangers being present.

3. 9 a.m. to 12 noon, 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. every day on a five-day basis. If necessary, I would be available to handle arraignments on Saturdays and Sundays. I intend to work every Monday through Friday throughout the year, but allowing some vacation time.

4. A more restrictive use of sentencing guidelines would be on an individual case basis. Sentencing guidelines would be used when appropriate. However, if allowed, deviation would be applied if the case merits the same.

MICHAEL J. HAND, incumbent, 65, Farmington, Graduate, University of Detroit, A.B. and J.D., 1948; admitted

to Bar, 1948; municipal judge five years, district judge 16 years; president, Michigan District Judges, 1975; president, Oakland County District Judges, 1975; outstanding citizen award, 1975; legislative joint resolution.

1. We have computerized record keeping, docket assignments and notices to defendants and attorneys. Pre-trial conferences have cut down trial time in civil, misdemeanor and felony cases. Use of mediators in small claims cases has cut down waiting time. Night court has enabled defendants to appear without losing work time.

2. Only in cases permitted by statute such as in rape or sexual abuse matters, or in cases where a small child is a material or complaining witness and a crowded courtroom would intimidate them. Cases involving juveniles, other than traffic cases are mandated by statute to be closed.

3. The working hours of the court should be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with night court once a month 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. as caseload demands. Each judge is available on weekends for arraignments and warrants on an alternate basis.

4. I think the sentencing guidelines should not be more restrictive than those already proposed. Every individual should be studied carefully and not sentenced solely by a formula. A sentence that has little or no impact on one individual might totally destroy another individual with a similar record.

Former football official charged

The former treasurer of a Farmington-area youth football league has been charged with embezzling funds from the organization.

Robert John Prebus, a 43-year-old Farmington Hills resident, stood mute at his arraignment before Judge Michael Hand in 47th District Court Oct. 19 on two counts of embezzlement over the value of \$100.

The case has been bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court, where another arraignment is scheduled, according to court officials.

The Oct. 19 arrest of Prebus by Farmington police capped an eight-month investigation after a \$2,000 discrepancy was reported by Farmington Rockets Little League Football Organization. Prebus was acting as league treasurer at the time.

AS TREASURER, Prebus had authority to write checks and pay expenses for the league, police said. "It takes more time when you're dealing with bookkeeping records,"

said Public Safety Director Frank Lauff, explaining the length of the investigation.

"You have to go over them (the books) with the holders, the Rocket organization to make sure you're as accurate as possible."

Farmington officers, headed by Detective Chuck Lee, spent "quite a bit of time getting a hold of Mr. Prebus," according to Lauff.

"Before the warrants are issued, we have to operate with phone calls to him, trying to set up meetings and this sort of thing," he added. "Detectives had difficulty getting hold of him."

EACH OFFENSE carries a penalty of 10 years in prison or a \$5,000 fine, police said.

A police report said that the offenses were dated "on or about May 31, 1983, and between Dec. 1, 1983, through Feb. 17, 1984."

Prebus, who lives in an apartment on Independence, works as a bingo caller at the American Legion Post 190 in

Farmington and the John Grace Community Center in Southfield. He declined to comment on the charges.

The Rockets Football Organization

has offered football competition to Farmington-area youngsters since 1957. The league has three age divisions — varsity, for 13-14 year-olds; junior varsity, 11-12; and pony, 9-10.

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