

# 'It's time to move,'; Lippitt to leave court

By Susan Mahoney  
staff writer

Mixed emotions characterized Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Norman Lippitt's decision to leave his \$92,000-a-year bench position in early January to join a Birmingham law firm.

"It was a tremendous experience, but it's time to move," said Lippitt, a Birmingham resident who has been circuit judge for three years. "I will miss my colleagues."

He sent a resignation letter Nov. 10 to Gov. James Blanchard.

Lippitt, 52, said he longs for the freedom, excitement and competition of his former position as an advocate.

But his courtroom was the site of a little excitement when it was one of the first in the state to experiment with videotaped court proceedings. Because his court reporter was retiring, Lippitt volunteered his courtroom to be the guinea pig for the innovative plan. He described courtroom-camera use as an "outstanding idea."

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Lippitt, who said he has a "restless spirit," likely will handle commercial litigation at Carson, Fischer, Potts and Hyman, 300 E. Maple Road, Birmingham.

Gov. Blanchard will appoint his replacement. Names of possible successors include Troy District Judge Dennis Drury, Southfield attorney Fred Harris, Farmington Hills attorney Barry Howard and Franklin attorney William Wolfman who ran as a unsuccessful challenger to county executive Daniel Murphy Nov. 8.

Lippitt said Gov. Blanchard should

officially release the names soon. Then the list is screened by the state bar committee, he said.

"Each has as good a chance as anybody else," he said. "I'm sure Gov. Blanchard will choose a qualified person."

Whoever does take Lippitt's place will finish out his term and then run in the next general election in 1990, he said.

The appointment often ensures reelection since successful campaigns against sitting circuit court judges are rare.

Lippitt, for instance, was appointed in September 1985 to succeed George LaPlata, who was appointed by a U.S. District judge. Lippitt was then unopposed in the 1988 election when he won the right to finish LaPlata's remaining four-year term.

Before his judgeship, Lippitt was in private practice for 25 years. From 1967 to 1985 he served as legal counsel for the Detroit Police Officer's Association. In 1980 he was appointed as an arbitrator for the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission.

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## Bubble magician at Cranbrook

Bubble-blowing magician Tom Noddy will perform at Cranbrook Institute of Science during the Thanksgiving holiday. Bubble Magic is scheduled for 11 a.m. and 1, 3 and 5 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday in the institute on the Cranbrook grounds, 500 Lone Pine Road.

Noddy, in frequent television ap-

pearances has been a guest on the Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show," "That's Incredible," Ripley's Believe It or Not" and the "Smothers Brothers Show." He has been featured in "Geo" and National Geographic's "World" magazines.

Noddy will create beautiful colors and shapes as well as educate partic-

ipants to the laws of physics regarding bubbles. Creations will include bubble caterpillars, castles, cubes and carousels, several of which will be injected with smoke.

Admission is \$1 in addition to the regular museum admission of \$3 for adults and \$2 for students and senior citizens.

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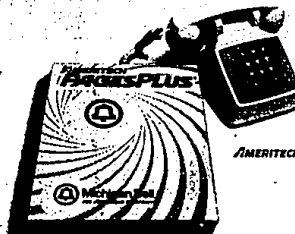
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