# Area attorneys uncertain about high court nominee

By Pat Murphy staff writer

Oakland County residents - Re-ublicans and Democrats alike -zpressed reserved respect for outexpressed reserved respect-for-out-going Supreme Court Justice Thur-good Marshall.

good Marshall.

But they had too little information about Clarence Thomas — Thurgood's possible successor — to speculate about the kind of Judge he would be on the high court if confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

firmed by the U.S. Senate.

"I simply don't know enough about the man to have an opinion about him," said Thomas A. Law, a West Bloomtield lawyer who is also a Republican county commissioner.

Robert L. Willis, a Southfield attorney associated with the South Oakland Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said he prefers to withhold judgment on Thomas, a 43-year-old judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

"I'm concerned, I worry about his views on abortlon and affirmative action," Willis said Tuesday, "But all I know about him is what in the newspapers... and then it depends on whose column you read. I'd say the jury is still out."

DONALD TUCKER, a lawyer who lives in Birmingham and practices in Southfield, reflected the sentiments of many Democrats when he said he was concerned that Bush would replace Marshall, an avowed champion of civil liberties, with a conservative

on of civil liberties, with a constitue.
Tucker, chairman of the Oakland
County Democratic Party, made his
comments hours before Bush announced the name of his nominee.
But he said his concern was valid,
regardless of who

Thurgood Marshall was a giant in upholding individual rights, against intrusion by government, Tucker said. "The concerned that President Bush might replace him with some-body-sebo, is qualified, but is (pillosophically) a doctrinaire (inflexible) social conservative. is so far have been supported by the concernation of the

oplaion they do not have the concern for individual freedoms."

EMMORY J. BAILEY, a lawyer from Bloomfield Hills, said he re-spected Thurgood Marshall and the ideals he brought to the Supreme Court. His successor would have an

Court. His successor would have an important legacy.
While most of the people contacted by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers said Marshall — the only black justice in the 20 year bistory of the supreme court — was a positive influence on the Supreme Court, Thomas Law offered a note of easily on the court of the supreme court.

caution.
"I think he stayed (on the court) too long," he said. "I think there should be a mandatory retirement

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(Justices ago Janea)

Marshall had i distinguished caperer as a civil rights attorney before being appointed to the high court in 1967 by Predient Lyndon Johason.

Marshall had i distinguished caperer as a civil region of the property of the propert

"I didn't particularily like it when the liberals did it," Willis said. "And I don't like stacking the court by con-servatives."

# Back in saddle

### County exec expects to finish term

Alling Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy has a definite retirement date in mind Dec. 33, 1992. That's the last day of the current four-year term he is serving, said Murphy, who fully expect to-finishout his current four-year term of off-""I've finished therapy and I feet fine," the \$6-year-old, Murphy said. Monday, after holding a staff meeting and spending several hours in the office. "I expect to spend a few hours in the office every day now." Murphy has been out of full-time

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Volunteers from Oakland County are urgently needed by the American Canner Society to transport cancer patients short distances for treatment at area hospitals. Volunteers are needed Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please call Betty Aleox, American Cancer Society, at \$57-\$353 for further Information.

commission since suffering a stroke on Jan. 5 and a separate setback April 12.

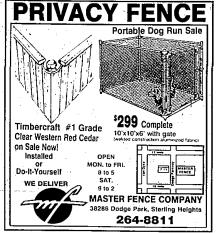
His comments about finishing his term come as no surprise to those coloue to him. But they do dash cold water on hot rumors about some-body replacing Murphy if failing—boath-forced-the-executive-into-ear—boath-forced-the-executive-into-ear—sound-than expected during a news—specifinery-level in. early May. In that article Murphy sald that as bad, ya she wanted to finish, out his term, his health might not permit it term, his health might not permit it and he might be forced to step-down early.

His comments Monday were in-mors, Murphy sald. "Tim ready to go," he said. "I even had a few days

y and he wanted to Ilnish, out his

His comments. Monday, were intended to squash any remaining rumore, Murphy said. "I'm ready to
go," he said. "I even had a few days
to to visit my son in Texas."





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