

Lawmakers cope with growing appeal caseload

See related editorial, 20A

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

State lawmakers groan whenever Marilyn K. Hall issues one of her State Court Administrator's reports.

Hall recommended the Court of Appeals, which now has 24 judges, get "a minimum of 12 new judgeships no later than 1997."

Her report last November added: "The Michigan Court of Appeals' docket is growing faster than that of any of the other large comparison states. . . . Criminal appeals increased by 122 percent in Michigan between 1988 and 1992. . . . Civil appeals increased by 34 percent."

The Legislature, occupied with school reform and budget woes, responded by:

■ Creating four new judgeships and redistricting the court.

■ Placing Proposal B on the Nov. 8 ballot to cut down appeals by about one-third.

The proposal, which gets all four new appeals judges. That U-shaped district starts in Muskegon on the west, goes down to Berrien County and across southern Michigan, ending in Livingston County. Legislative elections indicate it's the most conservative section of the state.

Depending on the number of votes, the four winning candidates will have terms of 10, eight, eight and six years. Court watchers already refer to it as Gov. John Engler's "court packing plan."

The fourth district, northern lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, will gain Brennan's seat.

Hall sticks to her guns — more judges. Among 23 states with appellate courts, the average number of filings per judge was 205. In Michigan the average was 493 per judge.

Cost of adding four judges this year: \$2.2 million in operating and a one-time expense of \$428,000 for office equipment and furnishings.

never beaten, will be seeking re-election to six-year terms.

Wayne County was in the first district with five other counties, stretching west to Jackson. The new first district has just three counties — Wayne, Monroe and Lapeer. It will lose one judge, Thomas J. Brennan of Dearborn. His post will be eliminated because he is past 70 and may not run for re-election.

Incumbent Judges Roman S. Gribbs of Detroit and Maura Corrigan of Grosse Pointe Park have filed for re-election.

Oakland County was in the second district with 14 other counties stretching west to Lansing and north to Arenac County. The new second district has four counties — Oakland, Macomb, Genesee and Shiawassee.

Incumbent Judges Michael J. Kelly and Marilyn J. Kelly, both of Bloomfield Hills but not related, and Kathleen Jansen of Harrison Township have filed for re-election.

The excitement will be in the new third district, which gets all four new appeals judges. That U-shaped district starts in Muskegon on the west, goes down to Berrien County and across southern Michigan, ending in Livingston County. Legislative elections indicate it's the most conservative section of the state.

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said they haven't levied any heavy-duty pressure on him to succeed. They've led by example instead.

Both were in college while their son was growing up. His mother, Mahin, has a master's degree and his father, Jamil, has a doctorate.

"You always want to be smarter than your father," Baghdadchi said. "You want those three letters (PhD) at the end of your name."

Baghdadchi recalls his childhood setting as the campuses of University of Massachusetts, University of Mississippi and Middle Tennessee. He quickly became enamored with student life, something he's not relinquished in his teens.

English is his favorite subject, which explains his desire to become an English professor. "I love the language," he said. "It just rolls off the tongue."

With that might come stories of being bunkered down reading by

candlelight for endless hours. Not so with Baghdadchi, who said he spends a half-an-hour to an hour a night studying.

He wants to learn, and that makes all the difference, he said. "All of it is attitude," Baghdadchi said. "Some assignments you may want to slack off on. . . . If you want to do it, you'll pay attention at the right time."

Such enthusiasm toward learning might get a teacher or two on your side, also.

He mentions how English teacher Patricia Tompkins gave him a book to read, "Augustus," and taught him Greek language. He also singles out band teacher Norman Logan for letting him work in the auditorium.

That encouragement had a role in his being named a National Merit Scholar.

"I'm not quite sure what those words mean," he said. "My friends who went off to college last year were all Merit Scholars."

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MaryLou McKerrill

husband, Daniel, and son, Nicholas. In her leisure time she enjoys English horseback riding, biking, walking and aerobics.



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WW names PR chief

MaryLou McKerrill has been named public relations coordinator for the WW Group Inc., the largest franchise of Weight Watchers International, in Farmington Hills.

She is responsible for media relations and ongoing public relations projects for metropolitan Detroit, including Saginaw and Flint, in addition to Windsor.

McKerrill most recently worked as director of special events for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Metropolitan Detroit chapter in Troy. Prior to that, she served as public relations/promotion coordinator at WJBK-TV. Before that, she was program coordinator for WXYT radio.

McKerrill received a bachelor's degree in communication from Oakland University in Rochester. She is currently pursuing a master's degree from Wayne State University in Detroit.

A native of Detroit, McKerrill resides in Keego Harbor with her

Hills man leads trade group

Alan Barry, president and chief executive officer of Brass Craft Manufacturing Company, a Masco Corp. subsidiary, has been named chairman of the Plumbing Manufacturers Institute (PMI). He lives in Farmington Hills.

PMI, the plumbing industry trade association, drafts plumbing codes and standards, monitors government regulation and legislation, and promotes member interests through public relations efforts.

Barry has served as president and chief executive officer of Brass Craft since 1988, having joined the company in 1972 as controller. Prior to that, he was vice president of finance at Cadillac Overall Supply Co. He began his professional career at Ernst and Young.

Barry holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Toledo.

Brass Craft, founded in 1945, is a leading manufacturer of plumbing supplies. Headquartered in Southfield, the company operates five plants in the United States and two in Canada.



Alan Barry