

PROBATE COURT

6 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE
REGULAR TERM
ENDING 1/1/2001

JOAN E. YOUNG

Probate Court is a civil court that is service orientated. It relates to the private right of the citizenry and provides protection for people who are for specific reasons vulnerable. It adjudicates cases including: estates, conservatorship, delinquency, adoptions, guardianships, mental health, abuse and neglect. The salary is \$98,508.

DISTRICT COURT

6 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE
NON-INCUMBENT POSITION
TERM ENDING 1/1/2001

Issues
Candidates for District Court were asked to respond to each question in 75 words.

The candidates
Candidates for District Court were asked to summarize their biographies in 75 words.

District Court has exclusive jurisdiction over civil cases up to \$10,000, traffic hearings, small claims up to \$1,750, misdemeanor criminal cases, felony examinations and also performs weddings. District Court may cover from one to a dozen municipalities. Judges must be licensed attorneys and may not take office after their 70th birthday. The salary is \$98,508.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS

If elected to District Court, how would you recognize and give full consideration to victim's rights?

SENTENCING

Community-based sentencing alternatives have been proposed and used for non-violent offenders to relieve prison and jail overcrowding. Would you consider alternative sentencing as opposed to a prison or jail term? If yes, under what conditions?

GOALS

What are the three most important goals you would like to achieve if elected to District Court?

35TH DISTRICT

STEPHEN H. BOAK, 52

Education: University of Michigan Law School, J.D., 1986; Franklin & Marshall College, A.B., English, 1983.

Occupation: Attorney, Partner, Semaphor, Thomas and Boak.
Background: 12 years, Assistant Prosecutor, Wayne County; Civil Trial Lawyer, Director, Prosecutor's Request Offenders Bureau, Chief of Operations, 13 years, Private Practice specializing in civil and criminal trials, 27 years, U.S. Army Reserve, Lt. Col. (Retired), Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal. Have argued cases in all levels of Michigan Courts.

I favor the use of victim impact panels and the solicitation of victim's input for sentences. Part of the sentence should be to try to make the victim whole - by restitution or by restoration of property.

Yes, the alternatives should be used whenever possible. I would use them for first offenders and only those repeat offenders who display a real possibility that they can be rehabilitated.

Increase the capacity of the Probation Department to effectively deal with the increasing case load. Make the punishment fit the crime and the criminal. Stagger reporting times for cases to eliminate the wait for litigants and witnesses.

RONALD W. LOWE, 38

Education: Plymouth-Salem High School, 1974; Middle College, B.A., 1979; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D., 1982.

Occupation: Attorney for 13 years, Plymouth City Attorney since 1985. Partner in the law firm of Lowe & Lawendowski.
Background: Active in First United Methodist Church, United Way, Jaycees, Rotary, Moons and Fred Hill Breakfast Unit Team. Married to Joanne, has a one year old son, Ron II, and one on the way. Professional Storyteller.

The 35th District Court, and the prosecutors representing municipalities in this court, currently follow the requirements of the Crime Victim's Rights Act. Victims of felonies or serious misdemeanors are notified of their rights under the act. The key element is the Victim Impact Statement completed by the victim and reviewed by the Probation Department and Judge before sentencing. I would continue this practice.

The Court uses several sentencing alternatives in addition to fines and in lieu of jail, specifically: community service; local communities work detail; Wayne County Sheriff's work release program; and tethering. Typically, punishment escalates - defendants are first sentenced to community service or work release. Their further failure results in jail time. Sheriff's program and tethering are used when a defendant demonstrates extraordinary circumstances that merit their use in lieu of jail. I would continue this practice.

The 35th enjoys a sterling reputation for the fair and efficient administration of justice. My first two goals will be to administer fair justice and continue the court's "no backlog" philosophy. I will do so ever recognizing that the parties before me are flesh and blood men and women seeking resolutions to their problems. I will use my role as judge to educate people, young and old, about the law.

43RD DISTRICT

SANDRA S. AGNELLO, 42

Education: University of Detroit Law School, 1980, J.D.; Western Michigan University, 1977, B.S. Mathematics.

Occupation: Attorney, Private Practice.
Background: I practiced in General Law with the Willard F. Hatfield Law Office when I passed the Bar in 1981. I also worked as a law clerk at the City of Detroit Law Department as an independent contractor from the year of 1981. There I handled depositions, motions, pleadings, legal research and writing, and trial preparation.

By permitting the victim, before sentence is imposed, an opportunity to be heard regarding his/her present mental and physical health resulting from the crime perpetrated and temporary and/or permanent injuries together with the limitations and incapacities resulting therefrom.

Yes; upon the receipt of a favorable report, prior to sentence, by the Court's Probation Officer, to the satisfaction of the Court, that the offender is a very good candidate for rehabilitation and is very unlikely to become a second offender.

Permit full and courteous access to the Court to all litigants, by day court and night court sessions, wherein early hearing and trial dates are achieved resulting in the efficient and orderly administration of justice to all.

KEITH HUNT, 34

Education: Valparaiso University School of Law, John O'Dair; Alma College, Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude.

Occupation: Four years as Magistrate in the 43rd District Court, Hazel Park, Farmdale, and Madison Heights District, Attorney at Law.
Background: Member of the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates; Member of the State Bar of Michigan; Member of the Oakland County Bar Association; Member of the Oakland County District Court. Admitted to practice before the United States Federal District Court.

It is important for a Judge to give victims of a crime the right to be fully heard, before any sentence is imposed against the defendant. The victim should, depending on the type of crime, be given full restitution for damages incurred by the defendant. It is important for the court to make sure that the prosecutors are following notice requirements of the Crime Victim Rights Act, so the victim may be present at proceedings.

I believe if a person needs to be incarcerated they should be. If they are a non-violent offender and not likely to be a danger to the community then certain types of alternative sentences should be used. For example, a first offender drunk driver can be placed on a house arrest program with a television monitor and breathalyzer placed in their home. If they violate the house arrest they then can be placed in jail.

First and foremost my court would always start promptly at 8:30 a.m. each morning. Secondly, I would add telephone pre-trials to help expedite the civil backlog, the pre-trials would be held at 8:00 a.m. once a week so as not to interfere with the normal docket. Third, I would better inform the citizens of the community about their District Court so that they understand how the system can serve them better.