

DISTRICT COURT

6 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE
REGULAR 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

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?

44TH DISTRICT
DANIEL SAWICKI

46TH DISTRICT
STEPHEN P. KORN, 41

Education: Southfield Public Schools; University of Michigan; Bachelor's Degree; Detroit College of Law, June Doctor.
Occupation: Attorney at law; Associate graduate faculty of Central Michigan University's College of Graduate Studies.
Background: 27 year resident of Southfield. Southfield law practice for 18 years; Member of the Michigan and Florida Bar Associations; Licensed to practice law in the Federal Courts; Former host of the "Law Talk" Radio Program; Head of the Salvation Army Kitchen for Christmas, 1992, 1993.

Crime should never pay. Victims should be made whole, when possible. Those perpetrating crimes should be compelled to make restitution. Criminals should not profit from their wrong doing. Victims should be encouraged to attend all Court proceedings, and be involved in the sentencing process. Victims should be invited to tell the Court about the crime's impact on their lives. Restitution would provide relief to the victims and serve as a deterrent to future criminal activity.

Sentencing alternatives to jail are available for nonviolent offenders. It would be appropriate to consider such alternatives in the context of a number of factors: the severity of the crime; the perpetrator's history of prior involvement with the law; the risk to the community of future criminal conduct; the intended impact of the alternative to jail. Probation, restitution and the Court's tether program are alternatives to incarceration available to the District Court Judge.

If elected to Judge in the 46th District, I would like to see an improvement in the relationship between the public and the Court. A Judge must be respectful of all people who come before the Court without regard to race, sex, or status. Disrespect from the bench is intolerable. I would hope to adjudicate fairly. Lastly, I would hope to encourage fair and expeditious resolutions to matters of conflict before the Court.

SUSAN NOISEEV, 44

Education: University of Michigan, graduate; University of Detroit Law School.
Occupation: Judge.
Background: Chief and Senior Judge, 48th District Court, President, Women Lawyers Foundation, Treasurer, Women Judges' Fund for Justice; past President, Oakland District Judges; Chair, Judicial Ethics Committee, ABA National Conference of Special Court Judges; Former Vice Chair, Michigan Women's Commission, Boards and Advisory Councils; Anti-Delinquency League; Choral 7 Assignment Educator; Salvation Army Kroc Center; The Settlement Center, Southfield Bar, Academic Advisory Board, Michigan Judicial Institute.

Victims who come to my courtroom always have the right to bring a family member, friend, or physician to support them during testimony and always have the right to speak at sentencing. Victims are entitled to restitution for medical and other expenses; collection is enforced by this court. Contact between victim and perpetrator is minimized; only that required for the successful prosecution of a case. Care is taken to isolate victims from their victimizers.

I impose alternative sentences only for nonviolent crimes, and employ several generally effective alternatives: the Community Work Program, electronic tethering, and the Driver Intervention Program, primarily for drunk drivers, where treatment is combined with confinement in situations other than jail. Work can make an appropriate point, especially where young offenders damage property; tethering can offer limited punishment while allowing an offender to hold a job. Jail always awaits offenders unchanged by an alternative program.

As Judge, I take each case seriously, and prepare thoroughly. I keep my docket current, to ensure speedy justice. I always remember that the safety of our community—as well as the rights and responsibilities of those who come to court—is at stake in each case. I work off the bench through drug education and a wide range of civic programs. I have only one goal: to do justice in each and every case.

48TH DISTRICT
GUS CIFELLI, 69

Education: University of Notre Dame, B.A., Philosophy; Our Lady, 1960; University of Detroit Law School, J.D., 1963.
Occupation: District Judge.
Background: United States Marine Corps, Order of Purple Heart; University of Notre Dame Football, 1949-1949, Area National Championships; Detroit Lions and other Professional Teams, 1950-1956; Practicing Lawyer, 1953-1973; District Judge, 1973; Chief Judge 48th District Court, Eleven Years; Michigan Judges Association; National Judicial College; Former Board Member, Jewish Association Rostered Citizens, American Judicature Society.

In my twenty years as Judge of the 48th District Court, I have always recognized the rights of crime victims and have encouraged them to come forward and inform me of the impact of crime on their lives. Victims must be protected to insure that the legal process does justice to them.

It is important that violent offenders be jailed for violent crimes, however, as 48th District Court Judge I have used many sentencing alternatives to jail in nonviolent cases such as community service which not only impacts the offender but benefits community programs and residential psychiatric and psychological treatment to rehabilitate defendants.

As District Court Judge, I have striven to make certain that persons coming before the Court are treated courteously and fairly; and cases are heard promptly. Of great importance is the need to make further advances in programs to make sure the citizens DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE. I continually look for ways to improve. I believe in and I participate in educational programs for young people to attempt to keep them out of the legal system.

NEIL M. COLMAN, 47

Education: Wayne State University, Undergraduate degree, 1966; Detroit College of Law, J.D., 1971.
Occupation: Attorney.
Background: Married, two children; 12 year resident of Southfield Township; partner in the law firm of Colman and Goodwin; attorney more than 22 years engaged in general practice of law; member of the State Bar of Michigan; member of Negroponte and Family Law Sections of the State Bar; member of the Macomb County Bar Association; hearing panelist with the Attorney Discipline Board.

Any victim will have an open forum to express his or her concerns and make comments as to how their respective lives have been impacted. If unable to address the court in person, all victims would be encouraged to express their concerns in writing. Each victim would be assured that their comments, either written or verbal, would be greatly considered when deciding an appropriate sentence for the perpetrator.

Jails and prisons should house the most serious criminal offenders who are generally persons committing violent crimes. These individuals should be removed from society for its protection. I believe nonviolent offenders do, under circumstances, warrant the consideration of an alternative sentence, such as community service, when the safety of the public is not in jeopardy. This does not necessarily hold true, however, for repeat, nonviolent offenders who obviously have not learned from their prior mistakes.

To institute a District Court based mediation process, rather than the present system which involves court discretion to order mediation on a county wide basis at the Circuit Court level. To institute a night court on a bi-monthly basis for traffic related matters which should be able to create a more efficient system to handle the tremendous caseload of the court. Lastly, the court must become tougher on criminals to protect citizens of the community.

50TH DISTRICT
LEO BOWMAN