

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.

51ST DISTRICT**RICHARD D. KUHN, JR., 33**

Education: Waterford Kettering High School graduate, Oakland University, B.A. with honors, Political Science, Detroit College of Law, J.D., with honors.
Occupation: Research Attorney for Oakland Circuit Court Judge Rudy J. Nichols.
Background: Married to Kristi Davis, both living residents of the Waterford area. Former Oakland County Commissioner, 1983 to 1990; former Chairman, Public Services Committee, 1987 to 1990; member, Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, 1987 to present; member, Michigan and Oakland County Bar Associations; member, Central United Methodist Church.

PHYLLIS C. MCMILLEN, 40

Education: Michigan State University, B.A. with honors, 1974; University of Detroit Law School, J.D., 1977.
Occupation: Attorney.
Background: 1978, Release on Recognizance Division, Detroit Recreational Court; University of Detroit Clinic Program; 1977, Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, Staff Attorney; Consumer protection, landlord/tenant, civil rights, 1978; Managing Attorney, Supervised attorneys, paralegals, secretaries and receptionists; 1980, Director of Training and Litigation; Trained attorneys and paralegals; supervised litigation; 1982 present, Schmidt, Leggett & McMullen, Civil and criminal litigation appellate representation.

DISTRICT COURT

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

52ND DISTRICT-1ST DIVISION**HAROLD M. BULGARELLI****52ND DISTRICT-3RD DIVISION****RALPH H. NELSON****52ND DISTRICT-4TH DIVISION****DENNIS C. DRURY, 52**

Education: Duquesne, B.A., 1982; Michigan State University, B.A., 1984; University of Michigan Law, J.D., 1988.
Occupation: District Court Judge.
Background: 27 years legal experience, Private attorney, Assistant City Attorney for Clawson, Judge for 10 years, Professor at Wayne College, teaching judges for Michigan Judicial Institute, Dean of The People's Law School, Civil Judge for 10 judges, 127 staff, \$10+ million annual budget, criminal programs saving taxpayers \$1+ million, and protecting the public from domestic violence and drinking drivers.

MARY ANN PRYOR, 33

Education: Duquesne University, B.A., Cum Laude, Pittsburgh, PA; The Catholic University of America, Columbian School of Law, J.D., Washington D.C.
Occupation: Corporate and Regulatory Attorney for Canadian International.
Background: Practicing attorney for eight years specializing in consumer and regulatory law. Advised to practice in Pennsylvania and Michigan. Plaintiff of suits for malpractice in corporate law and in Professional Responsibility and Ethics. Community involvement: Help Police Victims, Community Task Force, 8 year member of St. Theresa Roman Church.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS

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

I will work to ensure that crime victims are provided an opportunity to participate in the court process: to ensure that victims are notified of court dates and proceedings involving their particular case, to keep victims informed about procedures, and to allow victims to have input during the process, particularly at the time of a plea and/or sentencing. Finally, to the extent allowed by law, restitution should be awarded by the Court to victims.

Because the court must remain objective until there is a conviction, the function of victim advocate must lie with the prosecutor. Many offices have established this type of position to ensure the victim is kept abreast of progress on the case, and prepare the victim for trial. After conviction the court can play a role. Victims should be encouraged to address the court concerning sentencing. Sentencing can include restitution, restraining orders, and orders to obtain counseling.

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?

Community-based sentencing alternatives are appropriate in certain cases (e.g. where non-assaultive crimes are involved), but should never be used where a defendant poses a threat to the safety of the community. Any community-based sentencing alternatives however, must be viewed as punishment and should be closely monitored. The County's boot-camp and work-release programs are excellent sentencing alternatives.

My experience has shown that our current prison system acts as a school for criminal behavior for many incarcerated, particularly young offenders. For this reason, community-based sentencing should be considered. Having practiced criminal law, I do believe it is possible to identify those who would do well in alternative settings. In addition to the crime being nonviolent, criteria should include: the seriousness of the offense; the age of the defendant; the support system available.

GOALS

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

As a lifelong resident of the Waterford area, I am committed to keeping our homes, businesses, churches and neighborhoods safe for our families by removing the criminals from our streets. Drugs, domestic violence and drunk drivers cannot go unchecked. Creating an environment favoring the firm, fair and prompt administration of justice. I will strive to continue my commitment to excellence in public service by demonstrating my genuine concern for people and their problems.

To work diligently to ensure cases are handled as expeditiously as possible, reducing the time it takes to bring a case to a close. To act in such a manner while administering my duties that I will help restore respect for the judiciary which I have seen eroding at a serious rate. To work within the community with our children to teach them why it is necessary for our society that they respect the laws.

I insist on strict compliance with all victims' rights legislation. I have instructed the Probation Department to provide me with a Victim Impact Statement in all cases in which a victim can be identified. Victims are encouraged to make a statement during sentencing. I require all defendants convicted of alcohol driving offenses to be confirmed by victims of drunk drivers at the victim impact panel organized by MADD for the 52nd District Court.

I am dismayed that victims often feel victimized a second time by the legal process. Justice belongs to all. A judge's role is the efficient administration of justice and maintenance of a proper balance between defendant's rights and victim's rights. I will endeavor to keep delays to a minimum; explain procedure to keep victims informed; and carefully listen to and consider a victim's viewpoint when deciding upon appropriate sentencing.

Alternatives to jail are considered in sentencing for all nonviolent offenses. The Probation Department is instructed to consider alternatives in those situations when it appears that these programs will prove useful in rehabilitation. However, if it is apparent that the alternative programs will not be effective for rehabilitation then jail is considered as an appropriate sentence.

The proper goals of sentencing is punishment, deterrence of other or repeat violations, and when appropriate, restitution. If alternative, community-based sentencing will facilitate these goals, I will consider it for nonviolent first offenses in which there is no personal or excessive property damage. Every situation will be individually assessed to ensure that alternative sentencing options are appropriate and that no detriment to the community will result.

I will review all new and existing programs to guarantee that the court does everything to prevent citizens from becoming a victim of crime. Crime victims will be assured sensitive consideration at every stage of the criminal proceedings. The court will function timely and predictably to resolve criminal and civil matters. Criminal cases will be completed within 6 months, civil cases within 12 months. All programs will be cost efficient to taxpayers.

Bring an unbiased and considerate viewpoint to the bench and to treat every person with respect and common courtesy. Explore creative solutions to the potential challenges facing the District Court which may include increase mediation opportunities and flexible court hours. Stay active in the overall community, separate from the legal world, in order to stay attuned to the average citizen's concerns and to continually assess how the courts can best serve the community.