

# Prosecutor from page 10A

Bunting was not riled by Kevorkian's remark. Rather, he suggested to Breck it was a violation of the rules of conduct the judge had promulgated for attorneys as well as the media. Breck had threatened contempt proceedings for any violations.

When Breck did not cite anyone, Bunting said, "Does this mean we each get a free bite of the apple?"

Bunting — like Prosecutor

Richard Thompson — has been under fire of late.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Peterson, for example, on Monday confirmed he had told a radio station "he would fire Bunting's ass tomorrow" because of philosophical differences.

But Wednesday, as Bunting was assuming the lead prosecution role in the Kevorkian case, his boss was laudatory and supportive. "Larry Bunting is a

smart, tough lawyer," said prosecutor Richard Thompson.

"He originally took case to the grand jury," the prosecutor said. "So he knows the case and the elements. He's the best lawyer for this case."

Kevorkian is charged in the Oct. 23, 1991, deaths of Margorie Wanz and Sherry Miller in a remote cabin in the Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Oakland Township.



■ 'Does this mean we each get a free bite of the apple?' Larry Bunting, assistant Oakland County prosecutor



■ 'The (Michigan) Supreme Court is the enforcing agent for the inquisition.' Dr. Jack Kevorkian, retired pathologist under fire

# Rulings from page 5A

In the mean time, his office is going to proceed under existing law that Thompson said clearly prohibits assisted suicide. "We're going to do our job," he said.

Thompson said he is pleased the Michigan Supreme Court recognizes that Breck's instructions must be altered before jury selection can resume.

Judge Breck and Judge Jessica Cooper, who presided over the Kevorkian trial that concluded March 8, both have personal beliefs that favor assisted suicide, according to Thompson. "And they let those beliefs carry over to (in) their instructions to the jury," he said.

Prior to the beginning of jury selection, Breck ruled that the prosecution must establish three elements: Kevorkian knew the victims intended to commit suicide, he provided the means and his intent was to help them commit suicide.

Tuesday's ruling by the state supreme court came as a response to the appeal Thompson's office filed Monday. It insisted prosecutors do not have to prove Kevorkian's intent.

"The reason we appealed when we did," said Thompson, "is that we wanted clear instructions from the very beginning." In those trials ending in acquittal for Kevorkian, jurors complained that instructions from the judges were confusing.

If Kevorkian is convicted, said the prosecutor, he has the automatic right of appeal. "Once he's acquitted, it's too late for us to appeal," Thompson said, "so we have to appeal at the time."

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