

Computer crimes unit suggested as new department in prosecutor's office

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

It won't happen soon, but Oakland may eventually have a computer crimes unit within the prosecutor's office.

Prosecutor-elect David G. Goreyca mentioned the specialized unit Wednesday in his inaugural speech in the commissioners' auditorium, which is part of the court complex.

Most of the hour-long occasion was devoted to pomp and ceremony as Goreyca and other officials elected county wide took the oath of office.

County executive L. Brooks Patterson, Sheriff John F. Nichols, clerk Lynn D. Allen, treasurer C. Hugh Dohany and drain commissioner George W. Kuhn were sworn in one ceremony with Edward Sosnick, chief judge of the Oakland Circuit Court, administering the oath of office.

Goreyca was sworn in solo. The 34-year-old Royal Oak resident told the overflow audience that becoming the county prosecutor was a dream that could only be fulfilled with the help of family and friends. "Without each and every one of you, I would not be standing here as your newly elected prosecutor," he said. "Your friendship, advice and support will never be forgotten."

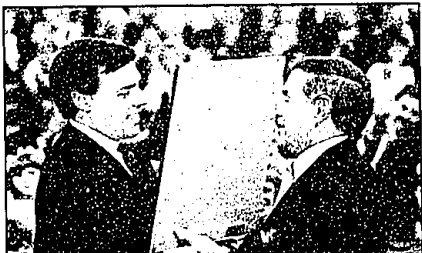
"My vision and goal in the next four years for Oakland County is simple. It is a promise to continue to fight to keep our streets and neighborhoods safe and to protect our young and frail from harm."

Goreyca mentioned the special computer crimes unit about three-fourths of the way into his 10-minute speech. "We have already witnessed the amazing capabilities of new technology in such areas as ATM invasion and theft, cellular phone decoders and computer espionage," he said. "It is, therefore, incumbent upon the prosecutor's office to take a lead in seeking new legislation aimed at protecting and preserving our privacy as technology becomes more intrusive."

"Access into our personal background and records is too easily obtained for nefarious purposes that in the end will cost all taxpayers and citizens."

Computer crime is closer than most citizens believe, he said privately. "People can stand on the overpass of a freeway and get the code of people driving by using cell phones," Goreyca said. Phone codes can be sold to somebody who runs up a big bill, he explained.

Mention of the computer crimes unit and administering the oaths of office were the main items of business. Otherwise the afternoon was devoted to congratulatory messages from well-wishers with Goreyca — the only nonincumbent — the center of attention.



Gerald Goreyca, the prosecutor's father and possibly his biggest booster, was obviously proud as his son took the oath of office. He told the judges and well-wishers that his son is a person of integrity and is more than equal to the task of being prosecutor.

"He will never let you down," said the elder Goreyca, an attorney. "If he does, I'll spank him."

Above: Oakland County's new prosecutor, David Goreyca, gets a gift from his father, Gerald, during the swearing-in ceremony. The elder Goreyca gave his son a copy of the newspaper article that said a recount showed Goreyca to be the winner.



Oath of office: Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Edward Sosnick administered the oath of office to Oakland officials taking their posts in January. They included county executive L. Brooks Patterson, second from left, and Sheriff John Nichols.

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