

Gorcyca: No help from Thompson

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

Private ill feelings between David Gorcyca and Oakland County's lame-duck prosecutor Richard Thompson have become a public feud.

"I wanted his (Thompson's) cooperation to make the transition as smooth as possible," said Gorcyca, who takes over for Thompson on Jan. 1. "He said he would cooperate, but he hasn't."

"Frankly, he's been an obstructionist," Gorcyca said Friday. "A roadblock that I have had to work around."

Thompson was unavailable Friday and did not return phone calls, but chief assistant Lawrence R. Bunting said speculation about a feud between his boss and the incoming prosecutor is "nonsense."

But the letter Thompson sent to county executive L. Brooks Patterson and county commissioners Wednesday indicates otherwise.

It also triggered the public outburst of feelings that had been private.

In the Dec. 11 letter, Thompson questioned the legality of the board's allocating \$30,000 to cover expenses of the prosecutor-elect's transition team — seven people appointed by Gorcyca to advise him on personnel and policy matters.

The outgoing prosecutor also questioned the legality of using public money for what he considered to be "private political purposes" and criticized putting the allocation in his budget.

Perhaps the most inflammatory passage said, "Information has come to my attention that certain actions and recommendations of the Prosecutorial Transition Team with regard to personnel may be in violation of state and federal law."

The incumbent prosecutor disavowed any responsibility saying, "The creation of the Prosecutorial Transition Team within my office was done without my knowledge or approval." Thompson wrote, "I was not involved in their direction, decisions, recommendations or actions."

Commissioners responded by taking the money out of the prosecutor's budget and putting it



Campaign differences: Dick Thompson, above, campaigning during the primary that ended in August. Thompson lost the Republican nomination to David Gorcyca. Since then, Thompson wrote a letter to Oakland Executive L. Brooks Patterson and county commissioners questioning Gorcyca's use of funds for his transition to office.

under a special contingency fund.

"It wasn't pizza money," said commissioner Sue Ann Douglas, R-Rochester, who is chair of the finance committee that last month approved the transition team allocation. "It was to cover expenses associated with Gorcyca's taking office. Furthermore, Gorcyca agreed to give a full accounting."

"We gave Patterson a transition allowance (\$20,000 in 1992)," Douglas said. "I think it's a good investment to assure newly elected officials take over critical positions as smoothly as possible."

Ill feelings between Gorcyca and Thompson have roots in last summer's bitter primary campaign when Gorcyca, a relative unknown, upset Thompson, a two-term incumbent, in the heated Republican primary.

The incumbent generally refused to attend candidate forums with the challenger. Furthermore Thompson accused Gorcyca of using bogus figures when challenging his claim to a 98 percent conviction rate. Since his Aug. 6 defeat, Thompson has not made many public appearances and declined to be part of any farewell bash, such as the roast organized for

Patterson when he left office in 1988.

"He (Thompson) didn't have the professional courtesy to give me a copy of the letter beforehand," according to Gorcyca, who said the incumbent has routinely been uncooperative.

"He even threatened assistants," said Gorcyca. "He said he'd terminate them if they talked to my transition team."

That transition team — composed of volunteers — was charged with recommending which assistants working for the incumbent should be reappointed next year.

Former assistant won large settlement

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to not reappointing an assistant, Oakland Prosecutor Richard Thompson has some experience — and it was expensive.

When Thompson took office in January 1989, he did not reappoint Kathleen Bohner-Solomon, one of many assistant prosecutors who worked under his predecessor, L. Brooks Patterson.

Bohner-Solomon subsequently sued her immediate supervisor Edward J. Cibor, Thompson and Oakland County for charging, among other things, discrimination and wrongful discharge. She collected more than \$100,000.

Federal jurors ruled that Thompson was not culpable in any discrimination. But they did rule Thompson had erred by not complying with Bohner-Solomon's request for copies of her evaluations and other personnel files as required under state law.

The verdict was contested, but Bohner-Solomon collected the full amount. Last week when Oakland assistant prosecutor Pamela Maas was not reappointed by Prosecutor-elect David G. Gorcyca, Thompson was angry. In a letter to county commissioners, he said actions of the transition team that advised Gorcyca on personnel matters "may be in violation of state and federal law."

Thompson was unavailable for comment Friday. Chief assistant Lawrence J. Bunting said he could not comment about Thompson's letter. Bunting did, however, remember the Bohner-Solomon suit and the settlement. "I wasn't with the office at the time," he said, "but I was here when it was settled."

Circumstances surrounding the cases of Maas and Bohner-Solomon were very different, Bunting cautioned, with one exception: Both involved an incoming prosecutor who did not rehire a female assistant. Maas last week said she was "devastated about not being reappointed."

Asked if she might file suit, however, she said, "no comment."

Macomb chief would go for "trade"

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

Macomb Prosecutor Carl Marlinga said he'd be more than happy to hire the two assistant prosecutors who have been notified they no longer have jobs in Oakland County.

Marlinga is even proposing that Oakland's prosecutor-elect hire some of his Macomb staff to create vacancies that would enable him to hire Pamela Maas and Lawrence Kozma, who he regards as "fine attorneys" and outstanding prosecutors.

Marlinga Friday said he has sent a message to prosecutor-elect David G. Gorcyca suggesting what amounts to a trade.

"The term 'trade' is probably an oversimplification," Marlinga said Friday. "But if Dave will hire some of my staff — those who live

in Oakland County — I would have vacancies. And I'd certainly consider hiring Maas and Kozma."

The Macomb prosecutor — who was re-elected in November — said he has known Kozma personally and has a high regard for his personal and professional qualifications.

When Macomb established a CARE facility — for abused children — we copied the one in Oakland County, Marlinga said. "Pam Maas heads that operation, and I was impressed with her."

In separate, but related developments, Maas last week was adamant about not knowing the reason she is, in effect, being fired from the job she had held for almost a decade.

Of the 102-attorney office, Maas is the only rank-and-file assistant who will not be reappointed when Gorcyca assumes the duties of the office on Jan. 1.

Gorcyca didn't mention Maas by name Monday when he announced his reorganization. But he acknowledged four people — also not identified — would not return.

But word spread quickly, and within hours of Gorcyca's press conference, the four were quickly identified. Gorcyca declined comment on the selections.

Most people could understand not reappointing chief assistant Lawrence J. Bunting, chief of legal operations Lawrence R. Kozma and assistant Roman Kalytink. Bunting and Kozma were part of the inner circle for outgoing prosecutor Richard Thompson and part of the bitter primary campaign.

Kalytink had previously said he planned to move to Alaska. Like Bunting, who is going into private practice, Kalytink did not seek reappointment.

But within the office and many parts of government, people wondered — and speculated — about Maas not being reappointed.

We're Looking for A Miracle And That Miracle is You!!

PLEASE DONATE YOUR MOTORIZED VEHICLE DIRECTLY TO THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

1-800-309-2886 or 313-972-3100

We help 1,000's of people through job placement, food depots and children's camps.

DONATE YOUR CAR

Truck • Motorboat
RV • Motorcycle

Free Towing • Fast Service • Tax Deductible

WE MAKE IT EASY!

Call (810) 352-5272

28366 Franklin Rd.
Southfield, Michigan 48034

Shop For Free!

Casino Windsor is Giving Away \$15,000 In Cash Prizes Every Weekday, December 2 - 20!

Holiday shopping bringing you down? Well, at Casino Windsor, you just might "Shop For Free," with our "Shop 'Til U Drop" holiday extravaganza! That's right, every weekday December 2 - 20, at 8:00 p.m., we're drawing for \$15,000 in prize money. Better yet, no purchase is necessary, and earning extra drawing

tickets is simple. So, get ready to make your list of who's naughty and who's nice, because Casino Windsor is ready to make you the biggest holiday gift-giver this side of the North Pole!



At Last... CUSTOM MADE SWIMWEAR TO FIT!

DIVE INTO...
...Brighter Colors, Sharper Style and Bolder Prints custom made to fit You. You choose the style and fabric and we'll put it together for you in about a week.

Beach Bound Ltd.

725 S. Adams, In South Adams Square
Between Maple and Woodward
Birmingham

Call For An Appointment
Gift Certificates Available
645-6088

Join us at Timbuktu for a sale that snowballs!

Receive
15% off when you purchase 2 items,
20% off when you purchase 3 items Q.E.
25% off when you purchase 4 items!

"Vote the best place to holiday shop!"
-by Timbuktu employees

TIMBUKTU

235 Pierce St., Downtown, Birmingham 594-4751

Max-Investor

12-month CD	18-month CD
6.00% APY	6.10% APY

Maximum Return, Minimum Term

The CD that maximizes your investment

FIRST FEDERAL OF MICHIGAN

Ask Us. We Can Do It.™

FDIC Insured

Branch offices throughout metropolitan Detroit, Utica, Kalamazoo, Orono, Durand, Cheesing and Okemos. Extended hours weekdays and full service Saturdays at most branches.

The minimum balance to open an account and obtain the Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is \$25,000. Substantial penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Offer subject to change without notice. Business or brokered accounts not eligible. APY accurate as of December 11, 1996.