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Brickner, Webster compete for circuit court post

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—Three Oakland County Circuit Court judges will be picked by voters Tuesday. Two incumbent judges are running unopposed for two regular terms to be filled.

• William John Beer, 65, of Berk-

ley, who has served as circuit court judge since 1958.

• Frederick C. Ziem, 58, of Pontiac, who has served as circuit court judge since 1960.

There is a contest to fill the two years remaining of the term vacated by the 1973 retirement of Judge Clark Adams.

Judge Robert Webster, who was appointed to fill the vacancy until this election, is competing with Stuart H. Brickner, a lawyer.

STUART H. BRICKNER, 31, of Oak Park, is married and the father of two children. He is a graduate of the Detroit College of Law.

Asked to name the three major issues facing the circuit court, Brickner said that due to the inherent relationship between attorneys and judges, attorneys should not be allowed to contribute to the campaigns of judicial candidates.

Secondly, Brickner called for improvements to allow the court to more adequately deal with a mounting case load, and, third, Brickner said that the stress placed on disposing matters through settlements and plea bargaining erodes public confidence in the courts.

The current practice that permits lawyers to contribute to judicial candidates was called by Brickner the single most serious judicial ethics problem.

"It will ultimately be solved by public financing of elections," Brickner said. "In the meantime, bar lawyers from fundraising."

Brickner also opposed the idea that, rather than face election, judges should be appointed.

"The only way to have a system based on merit rather than on favoritism or nepotism is to have an election system whereby qualified candidates are given equal exposure to the electorate."

ROBERT B. WEBSTER, 42, of Bir-

mingham, is married and the father of four children. Webster is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and was in private law practice until his appointment to the circuit court bench in 1973.

Among the three major issues facing the circuit court, Webster voiced concern about "the increasing emphasis on technical forms of (trial) procedure."

"I believe... it is the feeling of most trial judges that appellate decisions over recent years have compelled the trial courts to be too consumed with attention to these highly technical developments in criminal law," Webster said.

Webster also said the constitutional status of no-fault auto insurance—presently in a state of suspended animation—should be resolved quickly.

The third major issue, Webster said, was the legislation that calls for total state financing of circuit courts, which Webster said he opposes.

Webster named the current practice of financing judicial elections as the most serious ethics problem facing the bench. He advocated public financing of judicial campaigns, after candidates had been chosen in regular primary elections.

Asked if he favored appointing rather than electing judges, Webster said he favored the current system which allows the governor to appoint judges to fill any vacancy on the bench until the next election. New judgeships have to be filled by election of the people.

Webster suggested one modification to election practices:

"After a judge has once been popularly elected, I believe that he should face a vote of the people on the expiration of his term strictly on the question of whether he should be retained in office."

Circuit court judges are paid \$41,416 per year. Regular terms last six years.

All-day study probes aging

"Senior citizen," "retiree" and "dynamic maturity" all describe the same group in society today... the aging in America.

Michigan State University's Institute of Therapeutic Intervention has designed and implemented an all-day program to be offered Thursday (Nov. 7) at the Raleigh House in Southfield.

The morning will deal with "Counseling for the Problems With and Within the Aging Population." In the afternoon the subject will be "Organizing Agencies and the Community for Problem Solving Among the Aging."

Registration and coffee will begin at 9 a.m., luncheon will be served at 11:45 a.m., and the program will adjourn at 4 p.m.

Dr. John E. Bell, clinical psychologist from California, will direct the sessions. Discussion of problems that are found among older persons and the various approaches to their solutions will be the focal points of the program.

Further information may be obtained from the Michigan State University Continuing Education Service, 885 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Medical society to hold benefit

The Women's Auxiliary to the Oakland County Medical Society plan to hold its annual Health Careers Scholarship Benefit at the Raleigh House Friday.

Mrs. Donald Heyboer, president of the group, together with Dr. Heyboer and chairman of the evening, Mrs. Habib Vaziri, and Dr. Vaziri will be greeting guests.

Since its beginning in 1930 the auxiliary has raised money annually for scholarships to assist a nursing applicant in her profession. They also contribute to the World Medical Relief.

Mrs. Michael J. Curtin of Orchard Lake is chairman for this project.



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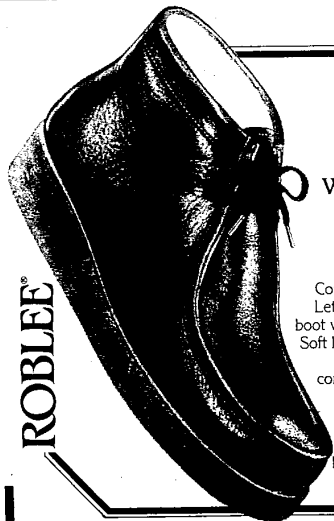
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