

4 lawyers campaign in appeals court race

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—The August primary has made the race for two newly-created seats on the Michigan Court of Appeals.

While 15 ran in the primary, the contest is now down to choosing between the more manageable number of four. Voters may select two candidates.

MICHAEL F. CAVANAGH, 33, of Lansing is married and the father of three children. A graduate of the University of Detroit Law School, Cavanaugh is currently an Ingham County District Court judge.

Naming three major legal issues facing the bench, Cavanaugh listed:

- "Accessibility. The system is cumbersome, expensive and time consuming to all and inaccessible save the wealthy or the indigent."

- "Administration. The court must keep pace with the ever-increasing volume of cases confronting it."
- "Judicial selection. The quality of the bench would be improved tremendously by an implementation of an appointive rather than an elective system for judges."

Asked to name the most serious ethical question, Cavanaugh replied:

"The necessity of a candidate for a judicial office to campaign for that office, and subject himself to the partisan consideration which a campaign entails, is inherently inconsistent with judicial ethics."

BERNARD L. KAUFMAN, 45, of West Bloomfield, is married and the father of two children. A graduate of Wayne State University, Kaufman is a partner in a Detroit law firm.

Asked to discuss major legal issues facing the bench, Kaufman replied:

"The Second Judicial District... is concerned today with our criminal code generally, and, specifically, such related issues as the extent of police powers as well as the latitude of judicial decisions and sentences and court procedures pertaining to such procedural areas as the setting of bail, plea bargaining, and the like."

Kaufman said the practice of judges engaging in political activity represents the most serious judicial ethics problem.

"... A judge or a candidate for judicial office should refrain from political activity period," Kaufman said. "Judicial office should, in the strictest sense of the word, be non-partisan."

"Unfortunately, in almost every judicial race... candidates seek endorsement either directly or indirectly from their particular political party."

That situation could be corrected, Kaufman said by equal public funding of non-partisan candidates.

Kaufman said he would favor appointing rather than electing judges "if you could insure the selection of a non-partisan committee comprised of members of the legal community as well as the general public which has a particular knowledge of the qualifications of judicial candidates and of the court system in general."

Without such a committee, he added, "... I would not be in favor of the appointment of state court judges because I believe it would become more political than it is today."

MICHAEL J. KELLY, 45, of Bloomfield Hills, is married and the father of four children. A graduate of the University of Detroit Law School, Kelly is a practicing attorney and state special assistant attorney general.

Asked to name three major legal issues facing the bench, Kelly replied:

- "Delay at all stages..."
- "Abuses of plea bargaining process..."

- "Public distrust of long waits and poor facilities, especially to witnesses and jurors..."

As the most serious judicial ethics problem, judicial inconsistency was named by Kelly.

"To quote former Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy," Kelly said, "The key to making the system effective is to convince everyone that justice will be consistent."

"... This should involve the prompt arrest, speedy trial and the efficient punishment for the accused if found guilty."

Kelly agreed with the present practice of electing rather than appointing judges.

"There has not yet been a system devised which would sufficiently insure the appointment of independent, yet compassionate judges responsive to the highest dictates of morality and integrity..." The danger is the creation of an elitist group from which judges would be picked...

GEORGE E. MONTGOMERY, 41, of Warren, is married and the father of four children. A graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, he is a practicing attorney.

Montgomery named as the three major legal issues: "Overcrowded dockets, disparity in sentencing, and the present system of selecting judges."

As a solution to these issues, Montgomery named:

- "... taking the judicial system out of the 18th century with the use of computers, video tapes and other technological advances."

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Society taps 7 seniors

Seven seniors have been elected to the Cum Laude Society of Cranbrook School in recognition of high scholastic achievement.

New members are Jeffrey Berger of Southfield, James Kabcenell of Orchard Lake, William Peirce and David Brown of Birmingham, Robert Rosello of Franklin, W. Dana Cheek of Troy and Jonathan Victor of Bloomfield Hills.

Cum Laude chapters are at independent secondary schools in the United States and are comparable to Phi Beta Kappa on the college level. Election of seniors to the Cranbrook chapter is held three times each year.

Common Cause coordinator

SOUTHFIELD—Stuart Miller of 15815 Addison in Southfield has been elected 17th Congressional District Coordinator for Common Cause, national citizens lobby.

Miller succeeds Susan Rennels, 2122 Tuck, Farmington Hills, currently state chairperson for Common Cause Michigan.



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