# Farmington area judge leads state association

FARMINGTON HILLS — Judge Mi-chael Hand is going to need the help-

state.
The association of 181 district judges and 15 municipal judges was-formed in 1968 when the district courts were organized.
"The general aim is to improve the administration of justice." Hand said. YOU HAVE NEVER USED **OUR TAX SERVICE BEFORE** MAYBE THIS YEAR YOU SHOULD!

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with the addition of a second judge to the 47th District Court. In addition to his duties on the bench, Hand is heading an association composed of all district judges in the

acmunistration of justice." Hand said.
THE GROUP has lobbled for legislation which would improve court facilities, but it was stalled in the appropriations committee after passing both the house and the senate. With the loss of sales tax revenue, Hand predicts that it wills be a while before arother state financing proposal for the local courts is advanced. The bill would have relieved the burnanties which house the courts. Caseload is heavy in the district courts, Hand said.

FOR EACH case heard at the circuit court level, 25 are heard at the district court level. In the 47th District Court, which serves both Farmington and Farmington Hills, 1400 cases were processed in 1974.

de in 1974.

An increase in the jurisdiction of district court cases will mean an even greater caseload this year.

Previously, district courts handled only cases involving \$3.000 or less.

That limit has been raised to \$10.000.

"The population increase has been spectacular," he said. More residents means more litigation.

TRAVERSING THE 36-square miles of the court's jurisdiction are 16 major highways — eight north and south and eight east and west.

#### Farmington student awarded letter

FARMINGTON HILLS—Cindy Eisenberg, daughter of Mrs. Karen Eisenberg of Farmington Hills, was awarded a letter for outstanding work on the girls basketball team. She received the award at the mid-year awards ceremony.
Mss Eisenberg is a sophomore at Leelanau School in Glen Arbor.

mendous." he said.
Presently, the civil cases are handled in Parmington and criminal
cases in Farmington Hills.
Judge Margaret Schaeffer and Hand
will alternate at two-morth intervals.
Quarters are cramped.
In Farmington Hills, court files sit
in the hallway leading to the auditotion which doubles as a city council
chambers and courtroom.

AN ARCHITECT has been retained to design a court building to be located in Farmington Hills. The facility will include more adequate office facilities for the clerk.

by will include more adequate office facilities for the clerk. The plans still must be approved by the city council, Hand said "The longer they wait, the more coatly it's going to be." Hand, who has served five years as a manicipal judge and five as a district judge, holds office until 1978. He had been chairman of the rules committee of the state district judge association but resigned to when he was chosen to head the organization

HAND IS NOT afraid of court watchers. He encourages residents to view the court in session. He said that frequently judges are unfairly accused of being too lenient with criminals when really be blame rests with the corrections commission.

Many people don't realize that the judge losse jurisdiction after sentencing, he said



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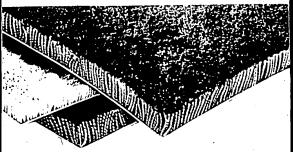
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Wed., Feb. 12 5.9 p.m. Thurs., Feb. 13 5.9 p.m.

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