

# County bar to be 'user friendly'

Making the legal system in Oakland County more "user friendly" for lawyers and the general public is a key goal of Sylvan Lake attorney Tom Ryan, who took office July 1 as president of the Oakland County Bar Association.

Among Ryan's objectives for 1993 are to work with judges to improve the efficiency and accessibility of the court system and to upgrade the image of lawyers in the media.

"We lawyers are trustees of the justice system, and the judiciary are co-trustees," Ryan said. "Our

goal is to make the justice system more efficient, more accessible and of greater service to the public. While I can't account for all lawyers, we must not lose sight of our goal: we're here to serve the public."

Ryan, 46, an Orchard Lake resident, completed undergraduate studies at Notre Dame University and got a law degree from the University of Detroit. In the 1970s he was an assistant Oakland County prosecutor under L. Brooks Patterson, now county executive.

Since establishing a private

practice in 1978 Ryan has represented municipal clients throughout Oakland County, including Beverly Hills, Keego Harbor, Bloomfield Township and Southfield Township.

Ryan is also active in his local community, serving as manager in the Commerce Township Little League, as president of the Oakland County Hispanians and as a board member of Catholic Social Services.

Ryan is married to fellow attorney Colleen Ronayne and the father of three children.



Tom Ryan

## ROLL CALL REPORT

Here's how *Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress* were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Aug. 6.

### HOUSE

**Yes to End Honey Subsidy:** The House voted 344 for and 60 against to eliminate taxpayer subsidies of honey producers. This followed a Senate vote to limit at \$50,000 annually the federal price support for individual beekeepers. The final figure will be determined when Congress completes action on the fiscal 1994 agriculture appropriations bill (HR 2493).

President Clinton earlier this year called for elimination of the program, which defenders say ensures crop pollination, but which critics call wasteful spending. It benefits

two percent of the nation's 200,000-plus beekeepers at a cost of at least \$18 million annually.

A yes vote was to eliminate the taxpayer subsidy of beekeepers. Area representatives voting yes were: Bob Carr, D-Pontiac; Dale Kildee, D-Flint; Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham; Sander Levin, D-Southfield; and William Ford, D-Ypsilanti.

**No on Disclosure Issue:** By a vote of 169 for and 264 against, the House refused to require public disclosure of the aggregate budgets of intelligence agencies. The amendment was proposed to a bill (HR 2330) authorizing fiscal 1994 funds for the CIA and other units. Although the figure is classified, intelligence spending was estimated at \$28 billion annually during debate. If appropriated in a single bill, it would become the sixth largest federal spending measure.

Sponsor Barney Frank, D-Mass., said Article I of the Constitution "says explicitly that all expenditures of the federal government must be made public. For the past 42 years, we have thumbed our noses at that particular provision in the Constitution."

Opponent Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said "most Americans understand there are some things that are best kept classified and confidential, and most Americans trust the two intelligence committees in the House and Senate."

A yes vote supported disclosure of overall intelligence budgets. Area representatives voting yes were: Kildee, Levin, Ford. Voting no: Carr and Knollenberg.

### SENATE

**Yes to Approve Budget:** By a vote of 51 for and 50 against, with Vice President Al Gore casting the tie-breaking vote, the Senate gave

final congressional approval of Democratic legislation (HR 2264) to bolster the economy by slowing deficit spending over the next five years.

A yes vote was to pass the fiscal recovery proposal authored by President Clinton and congressional Democrats. Michigan Sens. Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted yes.

**No to Constitutional Challenge:** The Senate rejected, 44 for and 56 against, a Republican challenge to the constitutionality of retroactive taxation in HR 2264 (above).

A yes vote opposed retroactive tax hikes in the Democratic fiscal plan. Levin and Riegle both voted no.

This report is compiled by the *Thomas' Roll Call Report Syndicate*, Washington D.C.

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