## Gorcyca names seasoned staff to key posts

BY PAT MURPHY STAFF MITTER Throughout his campaign to oust the incumbent Oakland County presecutor, David G. Gorcyca was careful to focus on Richard Thompson, never criticizing the staff he characterized as unlented and dedicated, take

Now, as he prepares to take office, Gorcyca is calling on that staff for key administrative positions and to be the majority of his pay office.

start for key administrative positions and to be the majority of
his new office.

At a press conference Monday
he announced he has chosen four
assistant prosecutors under
Thompson for key administrative positions and he will hire as
many as 97 of the 102 assistant
prosecutors who worked for his
prosecutors who worked for his
prosecutors who worked for his
prosecutors from Thompson's
staff, although they will work
under a different office structure
— one redesigned to eliminate
bettlenecks and give staff members "limited discretion."
Named to Gorcyca's inner circle are:

cle are:

John N. O'Brien II is the

new chief assistant. He has been a assistant prosecutor since 1889 and currently works in the circuit court felony trial division. O'Brien is the son of the late John N. O'Brien, who was a circuit court judge. The younger O'Brien also ran, unsuccessfully, for circuit court last month.

• Ronald E. Covault is director of litigation. Covault has been with the prosecutor's office since

1971 and is chief of the circuit court division.

• Jim Halushka is director of warrants and investigations. Halushka has been an assistant prosecutor for 13 years. His sasignments included deputy director of the Oakland County Citizens Grand Jury.

• Mary A. Larkin is director of administration. She was a social worker in the Victim Assistance Program in the Wayne County Prosecutor's office before coming to the Oakland County Prosecutor's office in 1990. She was nasigned to the child sexual assault division for five years and is currently assigned to the parole appeals division.

• Michael J. Modelski is director of appeals, ressarch and

parole appeals division.

• Michael J. Modelski is director of appeals, research and training. Modelski mycked in prosecutor's office for almost 16 years and was chief of the appellate division in 1993 when left the office because of a disagreement with Thompson and went into private practice.

"Together they represent 79 years of experience in the prosecutor's office," said Goreyca, who came under attack during the campaign because of limited experience as a prosecutor.

Goreyea had worked in the prosecutor's office for about 26 months, under Thompson and his predecessor. L. Broaks Patterson, before leaving because of a diagreement with Thompson tog ointo private practice.

While Goreyca was enthusiastic about the new structure and his appointments, he declined to

Gorcyca will rehire all but a handful of the assistant prosecutors

be specific on a number of questions, such as what he might be with charges his office inherits against Dr. Jack Keverkian.

"That will be the first topic we will address after Jan. 1," Gore a said, gesturing to his new executive staff. "It would be impropriate for me to comment until we've reviewed the casal," mover, the comment until we've reviewed the casal, mover, the constant of Thompson's prosecution in the Security of the security of

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cach of them has been dedicated to the service of the people of Oakland County, who owe them a debt of gratitude."
Goreyen said Monday's announcements were the first.of several changes in the way the prosecutor's office functions. The changes are consistent, he said, with campaign statements the office could be managed more efficiently.

Goreyen insisted the restructuring was "not criticism of Richard Thompson," but simply a way of reorganizing and decentralizing the workload.

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Shortly after upsetting Thompson, by less than 2 percent of the vote, Goreyen appointed a transition team to review the office and make recommendations on personnel and operations. "What we have found reinforces my belief that the Oakland County Prosecutor's office can be more effective with some simple, but fundamental, changes," he said.

The transition team discovered the existence of an extremely talcuted staff of attorneys, Goreyen said, "but we also discovered the existence of an extremely talcuted staff of attorneys, Goreyen said," but we also discovered significant amount of unrealized potential.

"The prosecutors are, in my

significant amount of unrealized potential.

"The prosecutors are, in my view, restrained by an archaic form of centralized management that has not changed in over 20 

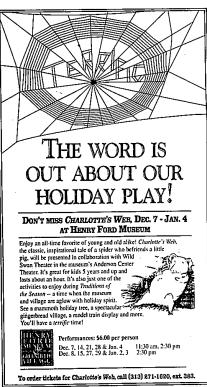
years, despite significantly growth, he said.

The new office organization, Gorcyca said, does away with the lead to bottlenecks. "The new organization employs modern management techniques based









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