

## Gage set for high court

BY PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

Oakland Circuit Judge Hilda R. Gage expects to hit the ground running.

Gage said she expects to be hearing oral arguments as a member of the Michigan Court of Appeals by Jan. 7, less than 30 days after being appointed by Gov. John G. Engler.

She was appointed to the appeals court Monday by Engler who, in his announcement, characterized Gage as "... an exemplary trial court judge for the past 17 years... highly regarded for her intellect, knowledge of the law and the genuine care and concern about the matters she decides as a judge."

Her appointment to the appeals court had been rumored since last month when she finished third in her bid for election to the Michigan Supreme Court. She was the third top vote-getter behind winners James H. Brickley, an incumbent high court justice from Traverse City, and Marilyn J. Kelly, an appeals court judge from Bloomfield Township.

Gage, 57, fills the vacancy on the court created by the election of Kelly. The term expires Jan. 1, 1999, when she could seek re-election.

She will serve in the court's second district which includes Oakland, Macomb, Shiawassee and Genesee counties. Her new main office will be in Southfield. She is delighted with the appointment, Gage said Tues-

day, although she expects a heavy workload. "I'm getting 30 cases to review before I take office," she said, "but I'm used to a heavy caseload."

Gage, a 1971 graduate of the Wayne State University Law School, was elected to the circuit court in 1978, after seven years in private practice. She has served as Oakland's chief circuit judge and has received numerous awards from religious, civic, legal and charitable organizations.

She became the first woman chair of the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission in 1991 and is currently a member of the state Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

Gage said she is looking forward to her new assignment, but she acknowledges on regret. "I'll miss trial work," she said. The court of appeals doesn't conduct trial, but reviews selected cases from the lower courts.

To illustrate the difference between the circuit and appeals courts, Gage referred to an old joke: "The circuit court fights all the battles, while the court of appeals bayonets the wounded."

Over the next four weeks, Gage said she will be busy clearing her docket, hiring a new clerk and reviewing the 30 new appeals court cases assigned to her.

Gage's appointment creates a vacancy on the Oakland bench, one that is expected to be filled by Engler early next year.

## Plan would nail down road funds

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

Rep. Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, had a big hand in redesigning a package of bills to trim road-building costs in Michigan.

The state House of Representatives this week will vote on the four Senate-passed bills, but the question is whether the Senate will accept the amendments.

"Right now, eight different departments take almost \$110 million from the Michigan Transportation Fund," said Kelly, a first-term member, citing the Department of State's \$86 million.

"My amendment says no state department can do that any more. When we passed the last gas tax increase in 1982, we said all the new money would be used for roads and bridges. It hasn't been."

The Kelly amendment, approved 13-1 in the Transportation Committee, would keep the \$110 million for use on roads and bridges — the equivalent of

**The Kelly amendment, approved 13-1 in the Transportation Committee, would keep the \$110 million for use on roads and bridges.**

a 2 to 2.5 cents a gallon hike in the fuel tax. The political result: Lawmakers might avoid voting on a fuel tax hike in their post-election lame-duck session.

The total state transportation fund is about \$2.1 billion. Fuel taxes bring in about \$700 million, or one-third.

Kelly also succeeded in altering an amendment from the upper chamber sponsored by Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton. The Bennett amendment would have allowed townships of more than 10,000 population to receive state road allotments directly, taking jurisdiction away from counties.

Kelly's amendment limited the impact to Wayne County and

will require townships to accept legal liability for roads, too. It also gives townships five years to opt out of the deal and return the money and jurisdiction to counties.

"My amendment forces townships to take liability. That was my main concern," said Kelly. "It narrows the scope to Wayne County. That's where most of the argument came from."

Wayne County's government is Democratic, while many townships such as Canton have Republican officials. Townships see themselves as being short-changed by county handling of road money.

Rep. Terry London, R-Marysville, chair of the House Transportation Committee, conceded the bills "are not the answer to all of Michigan's road woes" but "provide the necessary

foundation to build upon." If enacted as revised by his panel, the bills would:

- Put monetary caps on lawsuit damages by uninsured drivers. The state would have no liability if the driver were intoxicated.

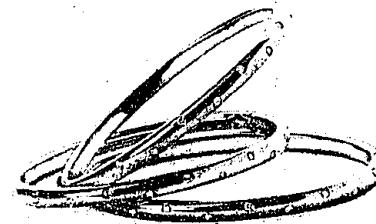
- Streamlines the state process for condemning land for highway construction.

Still in the Transportation Committee is Senate Bill 746, which would increase the motor carrier fuel tax for truckers to 18.5 cents a gallon. It provides a credit for the six-cents sales tax paid on diesel fuel.

*Refer to Senate Bills 1011 (distribution of road funds), 353 (caps on liability), 778 (condemnation procedures) and 746 (diesel tax) when writing to your lawmaker, State Capitol, Lansing 48909.*

**TIFFANY & CO.**

EROTIC • SEMI-EROTIC • ELEGANT • 810-617-2800 • 871-1410-9, SAT 10-7, SUN 12-6 • DTACO 1996



Starlight, Star Bright

From the "Etoile" Collection.  
Bangle bracelets in eighteen karat gold  
with diamonds set in platinum, \$2,350 each.

**Pick-up your FREE passes from one of these Kelly Services location or call 1-800-77-Kelly.**

Bloomfield Hills  
2525 Telegraph Rd.  
Suite 102  
810-642-9650

Troy  
900 Wilshire Dr.  
Suite 145  
810-362-1180

Southfield  
400 Galleria Office Center  
Suite 210  
810-352-5220

Telephone Loan Center 1-800-DIAL-FFM (1-800-342-5336)

**FIRST FEDERAL  
OF MICHIGAN**

FDIC  
Insured  
Ask Us. We Can Do It.<sup>SM</sup>

Loan offices throughout metropolitan Detroit, Lansing,  
Kalamazoo, Owosso and Grand Rapids.

Loans for owner-occupied homes only with \$500,000 maximum loan amount. Annual Percentage Rate (APR) example based on \$50,000 loan at stated contract rate and 120 month term. Actual APR will vary based on credit history, loan amount, term and monthly payment applies only during initial contract period. APR subject to increase after consummation; maximum 2% decrease or increase per adjustment; life-time maximum Annual Contract Rate (ACR) 6% above the initial APR. Conventional pre-payment charge. Conventional pre-payment subject to a 3% fee and underwriting standards which are available on request. Property insurance required. APR effective December 3, 1996.



*We're Looking for  
A Miracle And That  
Miracle is You!!*

PLEASE DONATE YOUR  
MOTORIZED VEHICLE DIRECTLY  
TO THE

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DEPAUL  
1-800-309-2886 or 313-972-9100  
We Help 1,000 Families through job placement,  
food cupboards and children's camps.

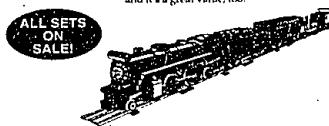


**LIONEL**

Lionel Lines freight train set

Built to the rugged standards of historic Lionel, the Lionel Lines freight set includes everything you need to get running: locomotive with white tender, three expertly decorated cars, 27" x 63" oval of track, 48-watt power and control system, tractor-trailer, and more. Plus, the boxcar and truck set are available in 1996 only!

It's a terrific way to get into Lionel railroading — and it's a great value, too!



**MERRI-SEVEN TRAINS & HOBBIES**

19155 Merriman at 7 Mile • Livonia, MI 48125

**(810) 477-0550**

BUY • SELL • TRADE • REPAIR • ALL GAUGES

Offer Good December 12 - 21, 1996

PURCHASE ANY LIONEL SET AND RECEIVE A  
20% OFF COUPON TOWARD ANY ADDITIONAL LIONEL EQUIPMENT



**Michael**  
BOB HOSKINS

**In-Stock  
Regular Price  
Merchandise  
Comforters  
Bedspreads  
Sleep Pillows  
Decorator Pillows  
Bath Accessories  
Gift Department  
Sheet Sets  
Tablecloths  
Down Comforters  
In-Stock Blinds  
Bath Rugs  
Wallpaper Borders**

**drapery boutique**  
The home of Bob Ross.  
December 14th, 15th & 16th  
SATURDAY • SUNDAY • MONDAY  
up to  
**27% off**  
**3 DAYS ONLY!**  
**HOLIDAY Shopping Spree**  
**The More You Buy The More You Save!**

OPENING DAY  
11 AM - 10 PM  
12/14-12/16  
11 AM - 10 PM  
12/17-12/19  
11 AM - 10 PM  
12/20-12/22  
11 AM - 10 PM  
12/23-12/25  
11 AM - 10 PM  
12/26-12/28  
11 AM - 10 PM  
12/29-12/31  
11 AM - 10 PM

Walled Lake Non-Area Farmington Hills Area Troy Area Canton Area Sterling Heights Area  
30900 14 Mile Road 33651 Orchard Ln. Rd. 49175 Ford Field in Troy 37133 1/2 Mile in Canton 313-781-1500  
at Hazelton (810) 659-0330 (810) 658-4313 (810) 379-1010 (810) 781-7400



Only 15% down with no private mortgage insurance.  
Available up to \$500,000. Lower down payments at  
great rates. Available in fixed or adjustable terms.

**1-Year ARM  
5.750% APR**  
**1-Year ARM  
8.060% APR**

**No points  
No application fees  
No title costs  
No closing costs  
No appraisal costs  
No up-front costs at all**

**The home loan Totally Free  
of up-front costs from the bank  
that brought you Totally Free checking.**

Telephone Loan Center 1-800-DIAL-FFM (1-800-342-5336)

**FIRST FEDERAL  
OF MICHIGAN**

FDIC  
Insured  
Ask Us. We Can Do It.<sup>SM</sup>

Loan offices throughout metropolitan Detroit, Lansing,  
Kalamazoo, Owosso and Grand Rapids.