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Oakwood Welcomes

Yasser M. Awaad, MD, MSc
Director, Pediatric Neurology and Movement Disorders Program

Oakwood is pleased to welcome Yasser M. Awaad, MD, MSc, and the new Pediatric Neurology and Movement Disorders Program. Dr. Awaad brings his medical expertise and more than 21 years of experience to Oakwood where he will care for infants, children and adolescents with a variety of neurological problems including: headaches, seizures, head trauma, learning disorders, cerebral palsy and many other diseases. Dr. Awaad also specializes in the evaluation and management of children and adults who experience tic, Tourette syndrome, dystonia, spasticity and other movement disorders.

Dr. Awaad is a member of the American Academy of Neurology, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Movement Disorders Society and the National and International Child Neurology Associations. He completed his Pediatric residency and Child Neurology fellowship at New York University Medical Center and comes to Oakwood from Children's Hospital of Michigan. He utilizes state-of-the-art therapy to treat children with spastic muscle disorders, including oral medications, Botulinum toxin injections and intrathecal Baclofen pumps.

In Addition to his pediatric neurology practice and role with the Movement Disorders program, Dr. Awaad is also joining Oakwood's new Program for Exceptional Families - a multidisciplinary program that provides comprehensive, coordinated care for children with chronic, complex disorders and disabilities. He is currently seeing patients at his office in the Oakwood Waterworks Building on Michigan Avenue in Dearborn. To schedule an appointment today, please call 313-791-4323.



Oakwood

Pediatric Neurology and
Movement Disorders Program

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Oakland names new counsel

By PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER
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Oakland's new corporate counsel has a depth of experience and good will — with circuit court personnel as well as private attorneys.

"I've worked with 17 of the best circuit judges in the world," Judith K. Cunningham said Wednesday, when she was announced as the successor to Gerald D. Polson, who has been named assistant to Deputy County Executive Kenneth Rogers.

"Now I'll be working with the best executive in the world," said Cunningham, whose experience was gained by county Executive L. Brooke Patterson as the reason he selected her over other applicants.

Corporate counsel handles Oakland County's civil legal matters. The county prosecutor handles criminal matters.

Cunningham, now a resident of Bloomfield Township, is a 1987 graduate of the old Waterford Township High School. She has been within the Oakland Circuit Court Administrator's office for 17 years, including the court administrator. Her successor will be selected by a panel of circuit judges.

"That's a very difficult position," said Birmingham attorney Jerome Sabbota. "There are 17 big fish in that pond (the circuit court), and they all have egos. But Judy Cunningham managed to balance those personalities, and keep the court running efficiently."

Al Holtz, a West Bloomfield attorney, described Cunningham as a "hands-on kind of person who will bring common sense to the corporation counsel's office."

Sylvan Lake attorney Michael J. Modelaki likened the job of court administrator to that of baseball commissioner. "I don't doubt that Judy Cunningham stepped on some toes in her capacity as court administrator," he said, "but that was part of the job. She's smart and practical."

Cunningham said she was anxious for new challenges, but concerned about some of the highly complicated aspects of the job. "I'm nervous about having to learn about drain codes," she said, referring to her being counsel for the Oakland County Drain Commissioner.

Patterson, her new boss, had some assurances. "Don't worry about not knowing the drain commission codes," he

quipped, "George Kuhn (county drain commissioner since 1972) doesn't know them either."

Cunningham, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Harry Kuhn, obtained a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in English Literature from Central Michigan University. She obtained a law degree from the Detroit College of Law in 1983, while she was deputy court administrator.

Polson, a resident of Orion Township, chief assistant to then-Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson from 1989 until being named county corporation counsel in 1994.

He is a 1976 graduate of Michigan State University. He received a law degree, summa cum laude, in 1981 from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing.

Polson will be filling one of two assistant deputy executive positions authorized recently by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Named to fill the other position is Robert J. Daddow, the county's director of management and budget, who will be the assistant to deputy Executive Douglas J. Williams.

Granholtz to speak at OCC in Hills

Oakland Community College opens its 1999 Distinguished Speaker Series Thursday, Oct. 14, with Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm speaking on "Consumer Fraud." Granholm's presentation begins at 9:45 a.m. in the Orchard Ridge Campus' Smith Theatre. As with all programs in the series, admission is free and the public is invited.

Granholm was elected Michigan's first female attorney general in November 1998. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and an honors graduate of the Harvard Law School.

After graduating from Har-

vard, Granholm clerked on the Federal Court of Appeals for the Honorable Damon J. Keith. She was a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's office, and while there, achieved a 98 percent conviction rate. In 1994, she became the first woman, and the youngest person, to be appointed Wayne County Corporation Counsel. As head lawyer for the largest county in the state, her office slashed the amount of money taxpayers had to pay in defense of lawsuits brought against Wayne County by 87 percent.

In 1997, Granholm was recognized in *Crain's Detroit Business* as one of the "Top 40 Under 40."

That year she also received the YWCA's Woman of Achievement award. In 1998, she was selected as one of ten "Lawyers of the Year" by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*. In June, she was named Outstanding Michiganian by the Michigan Jaycees. She also serves as a state bar commissioner.

Granholm is married to Dan Mulhern, a Yale University and Harvard Law School graduate. They have three children: Kate, Cecelia and Jack.

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