

Judge Grant Appointed Chief Circuit Court Judge

*by Kevin M. Oeffner
Circuit Court Administrator*



On January 1, 2010, the Honorable Nanci J. Grant became the chief judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court. Judge Grant was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to succeed the Honorable Wendy Potts, who concluded her service as chief judge after three successive two-year terms.

Judge Grant was elected to the bench in 1996, and was re-elected in 2002 and 2008. She currently oversees a Civil/Criminal Division docket. She previously served as presiding judge of the General Jurisdiction Division (now known as the Civil/Criminal Division).

Judge Grant is a graduate of the University of Michigan, with honors, and the Wayne State University Law School. She serves as a current member of the Judicial Tenure Commission, a position that is elected by Michigan's circuit court judges. She is a recent past president of the Michigan Judges Association.

As chief, Judge Grant will serve as the presiding officer and director of administration of the court. That means she will initiate policies regarding the court's operations, monitor the disposition of cases, apportion and assign the business of the court, supervise the performance of all court personnel, oversee the court's budget, ensure the court's compliance with all court rules and statutes, and perform other duties as established by the Chief Judge Court Rule.

The reality is that a chief judge of a court our size and who continues to preside over a docket cannot do all of the above on a daily basis. The chief judge is afforded the authority to delegate these and other tasks to a court administrator. My responsibility as court administrator is to oversee many of these duties on a day-to-day basis, under the administrative oversight of the chief.

The chief judge is also authorized to appoint presiding judges of the divisions of the court. Judge Grant recently announced the judicial leadership team that will assist her in directing the administration of the court.

The Honorable Shalina Kumar will serve as chief judge pro tempore. She will assist Judge Grant in her oversight functions and will serve as chief judge when Judge Grant is away. Judge Kumar will assist in the initiation of court policy and will oversee various projects as requested by Judge Grant.

Judge Kumar was appointed to the circuit bench in September 2007. She has served in the Civil/Criminal Division since her appointment. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Kumar practiced civil law, specializing in medical malpractice.

The Honorable Elizabeth Pezzetti will serve as presiding judge of the Family Division. Judge Pezzetti will preside over Family Division judges' meetings and assist in implementing policies affecting the Family Division.

Judge Pezzetti was appointed to the Probate Court in 2001. She presides over a docket consisting of probate and family cases. Judge Pezzetti is a graduate of the Wayne State University Law School. Prior to her judicial career, she was a private practice attorney specializing in employment law, media law, school law and commercial litigation. Judge Pezzetti served as chief judge of Probate Court from 2008-2009.

The Honorable Rae Lee Chabot was appointed by Judge Grant to serve as presiding judge of the Business Division and Circuit Court budget. Judge Chabot is the first judge to serve in this capacity. She will provide oversight on financial matters, which is a responsibility of great importance

given the serious budget challenges facing Oakland County and Circuit Court.

Judge Chabot served as a private practice attorney specializing in civil litigation for 23 years. She was appointed to the bench in December 2000. She is currently assigned to the Civil/Criminal Division but also has served in the Family Division. Judge Chabot has served on many committees and boards, but of particular note, she was appointed to the State Board of Law Examiners, a post she has held since 2001.

The newly appointed presiding judge of the Civil/Criminal Division is the Honorable Michael Warren, who was appointed to the bench in December 2002. He currently serves in the Civil/Criminal Division but also has experience in the Family Division. Judge Warren will assist

in implementing policies affecting the Civil/Criminal Division of Circuit Court.

Judge Warren is a graduate of Wayne State University and the University of Michigan Law School. Prior to joining the judiciary he was a practicing attorney with a focus on appellate work and litigation, corporations, securities and mergers, and education law. Judge Warren has been active in educational policy initiatives and is an accomplished author.

This is Judge Grant's judicial leadership team. I am confident that the court will be in good hands under the stewardship of Judge Grant and our leadership judges. Please join me in congratulating Judge Grant on her appointment. On behalf of our judges and employees, we look forward to a productive 2010.

The Oakland County Bar Association Presents...

THE FOURTH OCCASIONALLY ANNUAL OCBA BAR REVUE TALENT SHOW

"The OCBA's Got Talent!"



DVDs of The Fourth Occasionally Annual OCBA Bar Revue Talent Show are on sale at the OCBA.

Cost: \$29.95 each

Call Jan Anson at (248) 334-3400 to reserve your copy today!

*Did you
know that...*

You can register for OCBA events online?

It's easy! Visit our Web site at www.ocba.org