

# Circuit Court Welcomes New Judge

by Kevin M. Oeffner  
Circuit Court Administrator



In mid-August we received official word that the Honorable Phyllis McMillen was appointed to Oakland County Circuit Court. Judge McMillen comes from the 51st District Court in Waterford, where she served as a district court judge for 15 years.

Judge McMillen began her duties as circuit court judge on Monday, September 13. She joins our bench as the 68th circuit judge in Oakland County history.

Judge McMillen is a graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Detroit School of Law. Upon graduation from the law school she joined Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, where she rose through the ranks in five years from staff attorney to Director of Training and Litigation.

In 1982 Judge McMillen joined the firm of Schmidt, Isgrigg and McMillen, where she practiced civil and criminal law in the trial and appellate courts.

Judge McMillen's bar admissions include the State Bar of Michigan, the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Several professional organizations claim Judge McMillen as a member including the Michigan District Judges Association, where she served as its president in 2006, and the Oakland County District Judges Association, where she served as its president in 2001. She currently serves as vice president of the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals and as a faculty member of the National Drug Court Institute.

Judge McMillen was elected to the 51st District Court in 1994. She took the bench on January 1, 1995, and was re-elected in 2000 and 2006. She served as chief judge for 10 years, from 1998 to 2007.

Despite a heavy caseload and all the traditional duties that a judge must undertake, she worked tirelessly to initiate several programs to make the court more accessible, educate kids on the importance of good choices, and improve the administration of justice. One such program is the Sobriety Court, where therapeutic treatment and supervision are offered to offenders who drink and drive.

Judge McMillen also established the Specialized Domestic Violence Docket, whereby specialized treatment and intensive court supervision are exercised for domestic violence offenders; and the Mental Health Initiative, which aims to divert offenders with mental health illness from the

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criminal justice system to appropriate forums for diagnosis, treatment and care.

Educating children with the theme that choices have consequences has been an important mission for Judge McMillen. She initiated the Court in the Schools program, in which court proceedings and presentations by administration-of-justice and law enforcement personnel were held before students in schools for the purpose of demonstrating the importance of good choices. The Open Court program provides in-court instruction to elementary school students about the Constitution, statutes and the justice system by administration-of-justice professionals.

Judge McMillen serves as a lecturer on behalf of the Michigan Judicial Institute and the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. She is the author of several articles and publications pertaining to the practice of law.

In addition to their devotion to the law, our judges are very community-service minded and Judge McMillen is no exception. She is a member of the Waterford Coalition for Youth, serving as its chairperson for three years. She was an executive board member of the Boy Scouts of America, served as a member of the Waterford Cultural Council, and was active in the Pontiac-Waterford branch of the American Association of University Women.

Judge McMillen presently serves as a member of the Oakland County Community Corrections Advisory Board – a position she's held since 2002 – and has been a member of the Oakland County Substance Abuse Services Advisory Council since 2007.

Oakland County is home for Judge McMillen, as she has been a lifelong resident. She is married to attorney Robert Badgley. They have five children, ranging in age from 15 to 30.

Judge McMillen was assigned the civil/criminal division docket formerly assigned to Judge Goldsmith. She is located in Courtroom 3C. Her motion call will be Wednesday mornings (the same for all judges) and her criminal call will be at 1 p.m. on Thursdays.

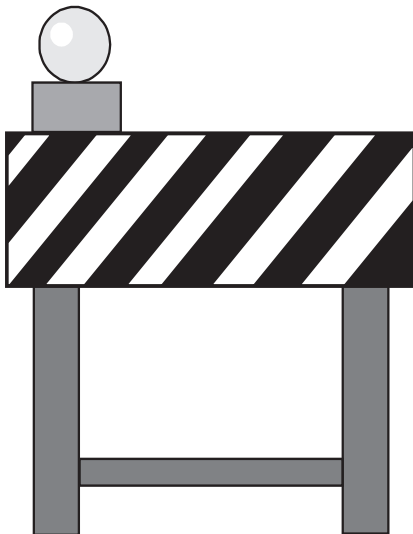
The addition of Judge McMillen bolsters an already excellent bench. She brings the experience of 18 years of legal practice and 15 years as a district court judge. She is committed to public service and dedicated to the advancement of the administration of justice here in Oakland County. On behalf of the judges and employees of Circuit Court, we welcome Judge McMillen to our bench and extend to her our best wishes for a productive and successful career as a circuit judge in Oakland County.

Until next time...

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