

Pilot 4/40 Program For Probate Clerk's Office

by **Rebecca A. Schnelz**
Probate Court Administrator

Beginning in September 2008, Oakland County Probate Court employees will have the opportunity to participate in a pilot 4/40 work week plan.

The idea for a pilot 4/40 work week was recently introduced by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson as an option to assist Oakland County employees with rising fuel costs. The pilot for the county was given full support by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

The Oakland County Probate judges thereafter approved a pilot program for employees in the Probate Clerk's office. Due to publication deadlines, this article is being written prior to the target implementation date of September 1, 2008. It has been determined that court and chambers hours will remain 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. You may reach chambers staff during these hours. All staff members participating in the pilot will have Monday off. Counter hours on Monday will therefore remain 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. We expect to extend counter hours on Tuesdays through Fridays, to 8:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

If you have multiple or very complicated filings in process, you may wish to consider that staffing will be reduced on Mondays when you are deciding when to make the trip to the courthouse.

The pilot program for the Probate Clerk's office will run from September 1, 2008 to January 2, 2009. After September 1, please check our Web site for any changes to counter service hours. That information will be found at www.oakgov.com/probate.

Court Rule Update

Please note that the Michigan Supreme Court recently retained the amendment to MCR 5.125(C)(22)(d) that was effective earlier this year. The amendment dictates that the parents of an alleged incapacitated individual are interested parties entitled to notice in any petition for appointment of a guardian. However, the Court also made an additional wording change in the rule to specify that the alleged LII's adult children are interested parties under the court rule as well.

Training Opportunities

Just a quick reminder that the Oakland County Probate Court offers "Basic Training" classes for conservators and guardians. The classes are sponsored by the Citizens Alliance for the Oakland County Probate and Circuit

Courts. The classes focus on teaching guardians and conservators about their responsibilities and how to fulfill those requirements in Oakland County. The conservatorship class is taught on a volunteer basis by attorney Mike Hughes. The guardianship class is also taught on a volunteer basis by Public Administrators Tim Flynn and Tom Fraser.

The Conservatorship class is held the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in courtroom 1F at 1200 N. Telegraph. The Guardianship class is offered on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the same location.



How can you increase your visibility to the general public and enhance the image of the legal profession at the same time?

The OCBA Public Service Committee has opportunities for you!



For more information about how you can take advantage of these opportunities, contact Candice Russ at (248) 334-3400