

News and Reminders

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New Chief Judge

The Oakland County Probate Court is very pleased to announce that Judge Linda S. Hallmark has been appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court as chief judge of the Oakland County Probate Court effective January 1, 2011. Judge Hallmark's appointment is for one year, following the retirement of former Chief Judge Eugene Arthur Moore.

Judge Hallmark is not new to the position. She previously served as chief probate judge from 2000-2004 and also served as presiding judge of the Circuit Court Family Division during the same period. Judge Hallmark was appointed to the probate bench in 1997. Prior to her appointment, she served as an Oakland County Friend of the Court referee for a number of years.

Judge Hallmark has appointed Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti as the chief judge pro tem, and Judge Daniel A. O'Brien as the presiding judge-Estates Division.

Congratulations, Judge Hallmark!

New Judge

As you are all aware, we welcomed Judge Kathleen A. Ryan to the Oakland County Probate Court on January 1, 2011. She is assigned to courtroom and chambers 1F. (Please note this is the courtroom previously assigned to Judge Pezzetti, who has moved to courtroom W2.) The phone number for Judge Ryan's chambers is 248-858-0250.

All probate cases previously assigned to Judge Eugene Arthur Moore have been reassigned to Judge Ryan. On Wednesdays, Judge Ryan will be hearing initial petitions at 10:30 a.m. All other filing will be heard at 8:30 a.m. All Family Division matters previously assigned to Judge Moore have been reassigned to Judge Edward Sosnick.

Welcome Judge Ryan!

New Hours

Effective January 1, 2011, the Oakland County Probate Court's service counter hours changed. The new hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. We ask that items be presented for filing by 4:00 p.m. whenever possible so that we may have appropriate time to process your

paperwork. Please note that any documents received by fax after 4:30 p.m. will be stamp-filed the next business day.

Hints and Reminders

Forms: A number of SCAO forms have undergone revision. When preparing a form for filing, please be sure to check our Web site at www.oakgov.com/probate for the most up-to-date forms. A link to the SCAO forms' Web site may be found on our Web site as well.

Due Dates: Be sure and check your calendars to make certain you have all the relevant due dates marked for annual filings on any estates or conservatorships for which you may be responsible. The court does send out delinquency notices; however, when the notices are sent, the item is already delinquent. It is also a very labor-intensive process to monitor and, like all businesses, we are dealing with staff cutbacks and are working to do more with less.

Location Change for Training Classes: In conjunction with the Citizens Alliance, the Oakland County Probate Court continues to provide monthly classes for guardians and conservators. The Basic Training for Conservators class is held the first Wednesday of each month and the Basic Training for Guardians class is held on the second Wednesday of each month. Both classes begin at 11:30 a.m. Please note that the location for both classes have been moved to courtroom 1E.

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