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News

John C. Foster, Chief Judge
16th Judicial Circuit Court,
Macomb County Probate Court,
42nd District Courts



For Immediate Release

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Chief Judge John Foster Announces Retirement

The Hon. John C. Foster, Chief Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit Court, Macomb County Probate Court, and 42 District Court, Divisions I and II, has announced that he will retire from the Bench on April 30, 2015. Judge Foster has had a distinguished legal career serving the citizens of Macomb County. Judge Foster was appointed to the Circuit Court bench on April 26, 2006 by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. Prior to that, Judge Foster was a District Judge at the 41-B District Court, serving Mount Clemens and the Townships of Clinton and Harrison, for 15 years. He received his B.A. from Alma College, where, until recently, he served as a member of the Board of Trustees. He received his J.D. from the Detroit College of Law in 1977. As well as private practice, Judge Foster was Assistant, then Corporation Counsel for Macomb County until his appointment to the District Court Bench by Governor James J. Blanchard in November, 1990.

In addition to his duties as Chief Judge, Judge Foster implemented the first Business Court docket in the State of Michigan in the Macomb County Circuit Court. Macomb was recognized with a National Association of Counties award for the Business Court docket in June of 2013.

Judge Foster has been active in many community organizations, including the Salvation Army's Mt. Clemens Citadel, Clinton Township Optimists Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Metro Detroit Alzheimer's Association, and was a Board Member at Peace Presbyterian Village in Clinton Township.

Judge Foster will be greatly missed by all who have had the privilege of working with him. "Judge Foster has not only been an exemplary Judge but also a great leader throughout his career. He is highly respected among his colleagues and the entire legal community for his great intellect and outstanding judicial temperament. As Chief Judge, he has done a great job of leading the court through innovative improvements including the business docket, case evaluation enhancements, and technological advances. Additionally, he has been a great friend and mentor to me and I am honored to know him both personally and professionally. I wish him all the best in his much earned retirement," stated Chief Judge Pro Tempore James M. Biernat, Jr.

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