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James M. Biernat Jr., Chief Judge
16th Judicial Circuit Court,
Macomb County Probate Court,
42nd District Courts

News



For Immediate Release

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Macomb Circuit Court Welcomes New Judges

The Court is pleased to welcome two new judges to the Bench, and to welcome Judge Marlinga (presently Judge of the Macomb County Probate Court) to the Circuit Court. All three judges were elected in November of 2016, and will begin serving their terms in January of 2017. Chief Judge James M. Biernat, Jr. observed that “All of the new members of the Circuit Court Bench bring a wealth of experience and very unique perspectives to the Court. We are thrilled to welcome them.”

Judge-Elect Rachel Rancilio is a partner in the law firm of Fischer, Garon, Hoyumpa & Rancilio, located in Mount Clemens. For fourteen years, she has specialized in complex domestic, civil and criminal litigation. She has served as attorney of record in more than two hundred cases in the 16th Judicial Circuit Court. Judge-Elect Rancilio played Division 1 Softball while attending the University of Detroit Mercy on an academic scholarship. She subsequently attended Wayne State University Law School, and was a member of Wayne State University’s Law Review. Judge-Elect Rancilio and her two children live in Shelby Township.

Judge-Elect Michael E. Servitto graduated from Warren De La Salle Collegiate High School. He received a BA in Political Science from Michigan State University, and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Michigan State University-Detroit College of Law. During law school, he was a member of King Scholars Program, and was elected Note and Comment Editor of the Law Review. Judge-Elect Servitto began his legal career as Clerk in the Tort Defense Division of the Michigan Attorney General’s Office. He also worked as a Law Clerk for Judge Mark Switalski and for the Warren City Attorney. Judge-Elect Servitto has worked for the Macomb County Prosecutor’s Office since 2003, as principal trial attorney and currently serves as Chief of the Cold Case Unit and Chief of the District Court. He received the Most Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the Macomb Bar Association, and was a Mount Clemens Planning Board Commissioner. Judge-Elect Servitto resides in Mount Clemens with his wife and two children.

Judge Carl J. Marlinga began his career in private practice, working with the Law Offices of Paul L. Nine, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, and Bushnell Gage Doctoroff and Reizen. He also served as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Macomb County, an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, and a Special Trial Attorney with U.S. Justice Department’s Organized Crime Strike Force. Judge Marlinga was elected Macomb County Prosecutor five times, beginning in 1984. He was the first prosecutor in the history of Macomb County to appoint

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African-American assistant prosecutors, to achieve a 50/50 gender balance among assistant prosecutors, and to enforce a no plea bargain/no dismissal policy in domestic violence cases. Judge Marlinga was also a founding Board Member of the Care House Facility for forensic interviews and the care of sexually abused children. He subsequently returned to private practice and worked with the University of Michigan Innocence Project to set aside convictions of wrongfully convicted persons. Judge Marlinga was elected to the Macomb County Probate Court in November of 2012, and has served as Probate Judge since January of 2013.

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