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

News



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## ***For Immediate Release***

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# **Judge Carl Marlinga Announces Retirement**

Judge Carl Marlinga has announced his retirement from the Bench, effective February 25, 2022. Judge Carl J. Marlinga has served on the Macomb County Probate Court since January 1, 2013, and was elected to the 16th Judicial Circuit Court for a six year term beginning on January 1, 2017. Judge Marlinga previously served as the prosecuting attorney for Macomb County, having been elected to that position in 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, and 2000.

Judge Marlinga 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 the U.S. Justice Department's Organized Crime Strike Force, assigned to the Detroit office. As an Assistant United States Attorney he was awarded a commendation by the United States Attorney General for his work in white collar crime prosecutions involving frauds perpetrated on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In a 30 year period from 1982 through 2012 Judge Marlinga was continuously rated as an "AV Preeminent" attorney by the Martindale-Hubbell lawyer rating service, which is the highest ranking available for both legal ability and ethical standards. He was recognized by the National Association for the Mentally Ill (N.A.M.I.) for his advocacy on behalf of the mentally ill. Turning Point, the Macomb County advocacy group and shelter-provider for battered spouses, honored him for his work on behalf of victims of domestic violence. He was instrumental in establishing the Macomb Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (S.A.N.E.) program to allow prompt examination and support services for victims of criminal sexual conduct. He also was a founding board member of Care House, which provides similar services to child victims of criminal sexual conduct. Judge Marlinga also served as the Circuit Court's Mental Health Treatment Court Judge since the inception of this treatment court in 2013.

Judge Marlinga was the first prosecutor in Macomb County history to hire African American assistant prosecutors. He also greatly expanded opportunities for women lawyers in the prosecutor's office, increasing the number of women assistant prosecutors (from 4 out of 56 in 1984) to over 50% of the staff of assistant prosecutors when he left in 2004.

Chief Judge Biernat stated, "Many of the Judges at the 16th Judicial Circuit Court, and throughout Macomb County, began their legal careers working for Carl in the prosecutor's Office. He has been a long-standing fixture in the Macomb County Legal Community, and we all wish him well in his future endeavors."

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