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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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Governor Whitmer Appoints Judge Sabaugh to the Circuit Court



Governor Gretchen Whitmer has announced the appointment of 37th Judicial District Court Judge Matthew P. Sabaugh to replace retired Judge Carl Marlinga on the 16th Judicial Circuit Court Bench. Judge Sabaugh's partial term will commence on April 13, 2022. If Judge Sabaugh wishes to seek a full six-year term, he will be required to run for reelection in November of 2022.

Judge Sabaugh was first appointed to the 37th Judicial District Court Bench by Governor Granholm in 2008. Prior to being appointed in 2008, Judge Sabaugh worked for eight years as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Macomb County. While serving as Assistant Prosecutor, he prosecuted hundreds of criminal cases in Macomb County District and Circuit Courts and successfully tried numerous felony cases. Judge Sabaugh received a Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University in 1993, and a Juris Doctor from Detroit College of Law in 1999, where he attended night classes while working full-

time as legislative assistant for the 28th Michigan House District-representing the cities of Warren and Center Line.

During his time on 37th District Court, Judge Sabaugh started the Macomb County Eviction Diversion Program and presided over the Warren-Center Line Treatment Court. The Treatment Court includes the Drug Court and Sobriety Court programs. He also produced the award-winning Warren TV program “Judges Corner,” and started a “Court in School” Program in 2008, where real court cases are seen by middle school and high school students.

Judge Sabaugh is a member of the Executive Committee of the Traffic Safety Association of Macomb County, the State Bar of Michigan, Macomb County Bar Association, Michigan District Judges Association, Italian-American Bar Association, Warren Kiwanis Club, Detroit Branch NAACP, Macomb Homeless Coalition, and the Detroit Zoological Society.

Chief Judge Biernat stated, “Judge Sabaugh is a longtime friend and colleague. I believe the Governor made a great choice appointing him to the Circuit Court Bench. I look forward to working with him in the future.”

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