

40 N. Main Street
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
Phone: (586) 469-5150
www.macombgov.org

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

News



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: John Nizol 586-469-5164

Date: March 28, 2018

Chief Judge Biernat, Jr. Appoints Temporary County Clerk

Former Macomb County Clerk Karen Spranger was removed from office by order of Judge Daniel J. Kelly on March 27, 2018. Under Michigan law, the County Clerk has many legal obligations and this vacancy must be filled immediately to avoid serious disruptions to Macomb County Government and the Macomb County Circuit Court. Michigan Law (MCL 201.15) provides the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court with authority to make a short-term temporary appointment to fill the office of County Clerk. Effective March 28, 2018, Chief Judge James M. Biernat, Jr. has appointed long-time County employee Kathy Brower as temporary acting Clerk.

Kathy Brower has been a Macomb County employee since September of 1992. She began working as a temporary file room clerk for the Clerk's Office, and was hired permanently by the Clerk's Office in July of 1993. Kathy has worked in numerous jobs throughout the County during her career - as a typist clerk for the Board of Commissioners; supervisor of records for the Clerk's Office; and data maintenance clerk, judicial aide, and assistant to the court administrator for the Circuit Court. Most recently, Kathy has served as the Court's Caseload Manager, overseeing case assignment, statistical reporting, attorney appointments, interpreter appointments, and monitoring compliance with the State Court Administrative Office's time guidelines. "I am honored that I've been chosen to assist the County with this transition. I hope that my temporary appointment will bring some stability to the great staff working at the Clerk's Office."

Although the Chief Judge is authorized to make a temporary appointment, all of the judges in the Circuit Court must meet to make an appointment to fill out the remainder the term until the next general election. (See Mich. Const. 1963, Art. 6, Sec. 14 and see MCL 168.209). This meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2018, at a time to be determined at a later date. Please submit applications to Court Administration by Friday, April 6 at 4:30 p.m. This meeting will be open to the public in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

###

STATE OF MICHIGAN
SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

In re TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY CLERK

Case No.: 2018-000398-XX

_____ /

ORDER

On March 27, 2018, former Macomb County Clerk Karen Spranger was removed from office pursuant to a writ of quo warranto issued by the Hon. Daniel J. Kelly, sitting by assignment as Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit Court, in Case No. 2017-2261-CZ.

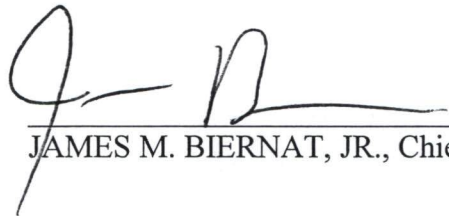
There is currently no County Clerk to assume the numerous legal obligations and statutory functions of the County Clerk's Office. It is necessary for this vacancy to be temporarily filled immediately in order to avoid disruption to the proper functioning of Macomb County Government and the 16th Judicial Circuit Court. Pursuant to MCL 201.15, the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court is vested with authority to make a short-term temporary assignment filling a vacancy in the position of County Clerk. In accordance with this statute, the Court appoints Kathy Brower to temporarily fill the position of County Clerk to avoid any disruption as noted above.

Notwithstanding this short-term temporary appointment, the Judges of the Circuit Court are required to fill a vacancy in the position of County Clerk until the next Clerk can be elected, pursuant to the Michigan Constitution of 1963, Art. 6, §14, and MCL 168.209. In accordance with this statute, interested parties should submit resumes and a letter of interest to Court Administration for the 16th Judicial Circuit Court no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 6,

2018.¹ The Judges of the Circuit Court will then conduct an open meeting on Friday, April 13, 2018, to select their choice for replacing the County Clerk pursuant to Michigan Constitution of 1963, Art. 6, §14, and MCL 168.209 out of the pool of qualified applicants.

For the reasons set forth above, the Court ORDERS that Kathy Brower is temporarily appointed as County Clerk. Interested parties should submit a letter of interest and resume to Court Administration by Friday, April 6, 2018, and an open meeting to fill the vacancy in the Office of County Clerk is scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2018.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



JAMES M. BIERNAT, JR., Chief Judge

DATED: March 28, 2018

¹ This letter of interest may be submitted in paper to Court Administration on the 6th Floor of the County Courthouse, 40 N. Main, Mount Clemens, MI 48043, or emailed in pdf. format to edie.labarge@macombgov.org.