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



## For Immediate Release

Media Contact: John Nizol 586-469-5164 Date: May 7, 2018

## **Circuit Court Bench Appoints Kathy Smith Interim Clerk**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court Bench met on Monday, May 7, 2018 to select a new County Clerk/Register of Deeds. Acting County Clerk/Register of Deeds Kathy Brower requested that her name by withdrawn from consideration on Friday, May 4. Ms. Brower stated that "Although I am honored to have been trusted with the temporary assignment, it was supposed to be just that, a two week temporary assignment." She indicated that "[i]t truly has been a privilege working with these exceptional employees," and noted that "I will continue to assist in any way needed to make this a smooth transition."

By a vote of 11-0, long-time County Employee Kathy Smith was selected as interim County Clerk/Register of Deeds. Kathy Smith worked for the County Clerk's Office from November of 1984 to February of 2012. She held numerous positions in the Clerk's Office over the years, working as a Typist Clerk, Computer Maintenance Clerk, and a Judicial Court Clerk. In 2012, Kathy began working as a Judicial Secretary for the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court. Ms. Smith has not filed to run for the office of County Clerk/Register of Deeds, so she will be acting in a temporary capacity until an elected Clerk/Register of Deeds takes office. Ms. Smith stated "My experience with the departments and employees of the Clerk's Office and Register Deeds makes me uniquely qualified to get these offices running efficiently. I am thrilled that the judges have confidence in my abilities, and I look forward to the opportunity to work with the awesome employees of the Clerk's Office and the Register of Deeds."

Chief Judge James M. Biernat, Jr. commented as follows: "Kathy Brower did an outstanding job as acting County Clerk while the appointment process was playing out. I believe that Kathy Smith will step into this role seamlessly. Kathy Smith brings tremendous experience to this new role, and I am very pleased that the judges have decided to retain a dedicated, long-term County employee in this role."

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