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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

Press Contact: Chief Judge James Biernat, Jr., (586) 469-5139

Date: May 7, 2015

Honorable James M. Biernat, Jr., Appointed Chief Judge

The Michigan Supreme Court appointed Judge James M. Biernat, Jr. as Chief Judge of the 16th Circuit, Macomb Probate and 42nd District Courts today, pursuant to Administrative Order 2015-01. His appointment is effective immediately for a term ending December 31, 2015.

Judge Biernat graduated from Hillsdale College in 1991, and received his law degree from the University of Detroit Law School in 1997. He was a Commissioner for the 16th District on the Macomb County Board of Commissioners from January 1993 through December 1998. Judge Biernat worked as an Assistant Prosecutor for the Macomb County Prosecuting Attorney's Office from January 1999 until his appointment to the bench by Governor Snyder in 2011. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Macomb County Bar Association and currently presides over the high risk offenders in the 16th Circuit's Adult Drug Court. He has served as Chief Judge Pro Tempore since April 2013 under recently retired Chief Judge John Foster.

"I am honored and humbled by this appointment and will work diligently to meet the needs of the Judges and staff to keep the Court moving forward," stated Judge Biernat. "Additionally, as a former County Commissioner and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, I have the perspective of all three branches of County Government and know how important it is to work cooperatively with the Board and County Executive in order to meet the needs of the residents we serve."

Fellow Judge Matt Switalski said, "Judge Biernat is an outstanding choice for Chief Judge. He is well respected among his colleagues, the legal community and throughout County government. He has consistently demonstrated an excellent judicial temperament, professionalism and collegiality. He will be a great Chief Judge."

The Michigan Supreme Court appoints chief judges for the trial courts to two-year terms. Judge Biernat is being appointed mid-term to complete the term of recently retired Chief Judge John Foster. For a copy of the Supreme Court Order, please go to:

http://courts.mi.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/rules/court-rules-admin-matters/Court%20Rules/2015-01_2015-05-07_formatted%20order_CJ%20Appointment_Macomb%20Courts.pdf

For more information regarding Judge Biernat, please see:

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/CircuitCourt-JamesBiernatJr>

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