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News

John C. Foster, Chief Judge
16th Judicial Circuit Court,
Macomb County Probate Court,
42nd District Courts



For Immediate Release

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Judge Kathryn A. Viviano Assigned as Business Court Judge

The Michigan Supreme Court issued Administrative Order 2015-01 today assigning Judge Kathryn A. Viviano as the second Business Court Judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit Court in Macomb County. Judge Viviano's assignment is effective immediately and will continue through April 1, 2019.

Macomb County launched the first Business Court in the State of Michigan under then Chief Judge, Mark Switalski, on November 1, 2011. Judge John Foster, current Chief Judge, was assigned as the first Business Court Judge in the State of Michigan and has been the sole Business Court Judge in Macomb County since its inception.

The Business Court docket is specifically geared toward the efficient and timely management of complex commercial cases. The Supreme Court appoints judges who have an interest and expertise in the area of business law for assignment to these dockets across the state. Through the use of innovative case management, enhanced technology and specialization in the area of business law, Business Judges are able to efficiently preside over complex cases that might otherwise be cumbersome if left on the general civil docket.

Macomb Circuit Court was recognized by the National Association of Counties for its initiation of the first Business Court in Michigan in June of 2013. NACo awarded the 16th Judicial Circuit a 2013 Achievement Award in the Court Administration and Management category for its "exceptional results and unique innovations."

Judge Viviano has both the education and experience needed to excel as a business court judge. After graduating from college in 1990, Judge Viviano began working for her family business while pursuing a masters in business administration degree in the evening. She earned her MBA in 1996 and her law degree in 1999, both from Wayne State University. Following graduation, Judge Viviano worked for one of the top law firms in Detroit, Barris, Scott, Denn and Driker, PLLC, where her practice consisted primarily of complex commercial litigation, employment law, commercial real estate matters and immigration. She became a business owner in 2004 when she joined her brother in establishing Viviano & Viviano, PLLC.

Chief Judge Foster is very happy with the Supreme Court's decision to appoint Judge Viviano as the second Judge on the docket. "As the current Business Court Judge in Macomb, I understand the complexity and demands of the docket and know that Judge Viviano is up to the challenge. She has a great analytical mind and a strong work ethic. She will be a great asset to the Business Court Docket."

Judge Viviano stated, "I have watched Judge Foster develop the first business court in the State of Michigan here in Macomb County with great pride. I am honored that the Supreme Court assigned me to this new role and look forward to working with Judge Foster to continue to develop this innovative approach to provide more efficient judicial services to the citizens of my community."

For more information regarding Macomb's Business Court, please go to
<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/CircuitCourt-BusinessDocket>.

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