



PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Macomb County Prosecutor thanks Chief Assistant Donn Fresard on retirement, highlights office progress

Mount Clemens, MI - Chief Assistant to the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office, Donn Fresard, officially announced his retirement, effective Tuesday, January 16, 2024. Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido thanked Fresard for his legacy of service and commitment.

Fresard expressed gratitude for the warm welcome he received upon joining the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office, "There is no question that Peter Lucido is ethical, energetic and committed to doing all that he can to make the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office a model for the state and the country in administering justice and technological innovation," said Fresard.

"Donn Fresard's commitment to justice and reform has left an indelible mark on the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office. He played a pivotal role in our pursuit of justice and accountability. Donn's unwavering dedication to implementing ethical practices and ensuring adherence to office policies contributed to the goals and direction to restore integrity to the office," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

Fresard's legal journey began at the Detroit College of Law in the early 1980s. He opened his own practice shortly after graduation, expanding to a small firm, and building his offices in St. Clair Shores. After over 20 years of private practice, Fresard's career took him to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in January 2004, where he served as Chief of Staff and later Chief Assistant. His ties to Macomb County remained strong, leading him to return as Chief Assistant to Prosecutor Lucido in 2022 with a clear understanding that his tenure would be limited. Fresard's wife, Patricia Fresard also has strong ties to Macomb County. She worked at the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office from 1985 until her election as Wayne County Circuit Court Judge in 1998, where she currently serves as Chief Judge.

Fresard complimented the rapid progress Lucido continues to make, including restoring ethics, integrity and confidence in the office, record increases in child support collections, eliminating

automobile forfeitures, becoming the first in Michigan to request mental health evaluations as part of a bond condition or plea in every gun case, establishing up to date special units to coincide with the times in our criminal justice system, and state of the art electronics. Further, Prosecutor Lucido instituted a first-in-the-state Warrant Appeals Unit to give crime victims and detectives a second chance to be heard.

Lucido's achievements were supported by Fresard, including more resources for a Hate Crimes Unit, a Conviction Integrity Unit, an electronic case management system, digital evidence storage and retrieval, updated office equipment, increased training, and even the addition of Peanut the therapy dog.

During Fresard's tenure as Chief Assistant, Prosecutor Lucido hired and promoted multiple talented assistant prosecutors, including record numbers of women.

"Prosecutor Lucido continues to attract strong talent and create a diverse work environment. It is remarkable that the staff turnover rate is so low compared to other county departments. The positive direction of the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office has attracted some of the top assistant prosecutor candidates in the state. Important progress includes the fact that assistant prosecutor new hires make the office just about 50% women," said Fresard. "It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in the two most vibrant counties in the State of Michigan."

The Chief Assistant position is the second highest position in the Prosecutor's Office. Lucido has not made an announcement regarding whom he will appoint as the new Chief Assistant to continue the pursuit of justice in the county and continue the tremendous progress for the office.

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