

Welcome Judge Ryan

by Rebecca A. Schnelz
Probate Court Administrator



It is my very great pleasure to utilize this month's column space to welcome Judge Kathleen A. Ryan to the Oakland County Probate Court bench.

As I'm sure you are all aware, Judge Ryan was elected in November to fill the position that was vacated by the retirement of Judge Eugene Arthur Moore. Many of you may know Judge Ryan from having worked with her as opposing counsel or co-counsel on a case. For those of you that haven't worked with her, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce her to you.

Judge Ryan is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and attended law school at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. She began a solo practice in November 1996. In April 1998 she formed Ryan & Schouman, PLC with partner Daniel Schouman in Walled Lake, where she remained until taking the bench. While in private practice, she specialized in probate and family law. Judge Ryan is married to attorney Kevin M. Wilhelmi and has two stepchildren.

Judge Ryan is assigned to courtroom 1F. She is assigned full time to probate and has taken over the probate docket of Judge Moore. At the present time, for motion calls, Judge Ryan will be hearing initial petitions in a matter at 10:30 a.m. All other petitions for motion call will be set for 8:30 a.m.

The phone number for Judge Ryan's chambers is 248-858-0250. Faxed documents should be sent to 248-452-9398.

It has been a pleasure working with Judge Ryan as we prepared for her taking the bench at the beginning of January. I hope you will join the probate staff as we welcome her to the Oakland County Probate Court.

Other Important Changes

New Chief Judge: It is my great pleasure to announce that Judge Linda Hallmark has been appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court as Chief Judge of the Oakland County Probate Court. Her term is effective January 1 through December 31, 2011. Judge Hallmark replaces former Chief Judge Eugene Arthur Moore following his retirement at the end of December 2010. Judge Hallmark has appointed Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti as Chief Judge Pro

Tem of the Probate Court and Judge Daniel A. O'Brien as the Presiding Judge of the Estates Division.

Service Counter Hours: Effective January 1, 2011, the Oakland County Probate Court counter hours have changed. The court is no longer able to participate in the county's 4-day / 40-hour work week. As a result, counter hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Hours of court remain 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. We do ask that you try to present any paperwork for filing by 4:00 p.m. so that we may have sufficient time to process the documents before the end of the day.

Judge Pezzetti's courtroom: Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti is now located in courtroom **W2** in the West Wing Extension of the courthouse. You will find her courtroom around the corner from Judge Linda Hallmark's courtroom (W1). The phone numbers for her chambers remain the same.

As we move into 2011, there will continue to be changes for us all to adapt to as further budget cuts fall into place. I look forward to continuing to work with the Oakland County Probate staff to ensure that we are providing the best service possible. Best wishes for a wonderful new year.

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