

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit

Tuesday, November 6, 2018
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA

Website: www.lwvoa.org **E-mail:** contact@lwvoa.org **Phone:** 248-594-6602

Go to www.LWVOA.org and click on ‘Voter Guides’ then scroll down to ‘Judges’ for a link to additional candidate responses on www.OCBA.org website.

Go to www.LWVOA.org and Click on ‘Candidate Forums’ for October 2nd forum information.

5 Candidates for CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE INCUMBENT SEAT for FIVE 6-year Terms

LEO BOWMAN

KAREN D. MCDONALD

PHYLLIS MCMILLEN

DENISE LANGFORD MORRIS

MICHAEL WARREN

(Candidates unopposed on the ballot were not sent questionnaires)

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

1 Candidate for CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE NEW SEAT for ONE 6-year Term

<p>Question 1: Summarize your biography, including your education (degrees conferred, colleges and law school), career and employment experience, elected offices held, community service activity, organizational affiliations, and other pertinent information. (Word Limit=125)</p>	<p>Question 2: Describe the general nature of your law practice or other legal work you have done, the typical clients you have represented, areas of specialty or concentration, and the geographic region of your practice. (Word Limit = 125)</p>	<p>Question 3: Why should voters elect (or re-elect) you to judicial office; what qualities (e.g. temperament, diligence, etc.) and experiences do you have that commend you to the judicial office you seek? (Word Limit = 125)</p>
<p>JULIE MCDONALD</p> <p>I received my B.A. in Finance from Western Michigan University and my J.D. from Detroit College of Law. I attended night school while working full time as a trade settler at an investment management firm with \$4.8 billion in assets. I graduated Cum Laude in the top 10% of my class.</p> <p>After graduation, I began working at a midsize civil defense firm focusing primarily on automobile negligence, products liability and premise liability. The majority of my career was spent as a solo-practitioner handling numerous criminals, civil, family, probate, and juvenile matters.</p> <p>I am currently employed as a staff attorney to Judge David Groner which allows me the opportunity to see on a daily basis the duties and responsibilities of a judge. I am the mother of three teenagers.</p>	<p>I am currently employed as the staff attorney to Judge David A. Groner and have also worked as a staff attorney to Judge Kathleen Macdonald and Judge Karen McDonald. This experience has prepared me for the position I am seeking as I work hands on with the judge, attorneys and, at times, litigants. I assist the judge with opinions and orders, motions, evidentiary hearings, settlements and trials.</p> <p>The majority of my career was in private practice. I initially worked at a law firm handling cases for insurance companies and their insureds. I then worked in a small partnership and as a solo-practitioner. Working as a solo-practitioner, allowed me to experience many different areas of the law such as divorce, juvenile, criminal, estate planning, contract law, real estate, general civil and landlord/tenant. My practice also provided a varied client base.</p>	<p>My varied work experience qualifies me for the position I am seeking. Additionally, I am extremely hardworking, conscientious and dedicated to the legal profession. I recognize the importance of electing a judge who will be prepared, will listen to the parties and treat all with respect, courtesy and professionalism.</p>

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

2 Candidates for CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE OPEN SEAT for ONE 6-year Term

Vote for no more than ONE

The 6th Circuit Court includes all of Oakland County.

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<p>DAN CHRIST</p> <p>I am fifty-two years old and a life-long Oakland County resident. I have been married to my wife, Ann, for twenty-five years and we are the proud parents of three children. I attended Michigan State University graduating in 1987 and graduated from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1991.</p> <p>For twenty-seven (27) years I have practiced law, representing individuals, businesses and public corporations. I have litigated cases on my clients' behalf- protecting their interests and making sure their rights are protected. I have prosecuted criminals and protected victims of crime to make sure that justice is served.</p> <p>For most of my career, I have been with the firm of Beier Howlett, P.C. and my current firm of Hafeli, Staran & Christ, P.C. I am running for the non-incumbent position on the Oakland County Circuit Court to serve the citizens of Oakland County. I am the most experienced, most qualified candidate for this position.</p>	<p>My practice consists of representing individuals, small businesses and cities, villages and townships and other entities in Oakland County and Metro-Detroit. For over a quarter-century, I provide general counsel to my clients and have handled all manner of civil litigation, including business disputes, zoning and land use matters, construction disputes, tort and liability matters, divorce proceedings, criminal matters and have also prosecuted thousand cases of criminal violations and crimes on behalf of my municipal clients.</p>	<p>My twenty-seven years as a practicing attorney with broad ranging civil trial experience and criminal prosecution trial experience distinguishes me from the other candidate who has never tried any type of case and never represented a client. I have integrity and will be faithful to the law. I have the experience and character to make hard decisions after full consideration of the facts. I have a reputation of being open-minded and pragmatic. I have the right temperament to be patient and courteous to the parties appearing before the court. My legal perspective acquired over twenty-seven years and life perspective makes me the most experienced and most qualified candidate for Oakland Circuit Court judge.</p>

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

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<p>JAKE CUNNINGHAM</p> <p>I received my B.A. from Oakland University, and law degree from Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School, where I later taught as an adjunct professor. During college and law school, I clerked at the Birmingham law firm of Williams, Williams, Rattner, and Plunkett in addition to working in retail sales. I then began my career at Oakland Circuit Court, clerking in general civil and business courts. I am currently a staff attorney in the court's family division. I have served in leadership roles on Oakland County Bar Association committees including Chair of the Professional Development Committee. I am a member of the American, Irish and Armenian Bar Associations, the Eastern District of Michigan Federal Bar Association, and the Michigan Inter-Professional Association.</p>	<p>I am a judicial staff attorney to Judge Mary Ellen Brennan in the Oakland Circuit Court's family division. I assist in the decision-making process in all family division matters including: divorce, child and spousal support, paternity establishment and revocation, custody, parenting time, adoptions, juvenile delinquency, termination of parental rights and personal protection orders. I have a high pre-trial settlement success rate and am in court every day. Previously, I clerked for Judge Wendy Potts on both her general civil docket and business court docket. There, I assisted in deciding civil matters where \$25,000 or more was at issue, on statutorily-defined business cases, and on felonies. I have assisted the court in deciding thousands of motions of all kinds.</p>	<p>I am the only candidate who has helped decide cases in Oakland Circuit Court, and I now serve as staff attorney in the family division of the court- the very same division where the newly elected judge will sit. Throughout my career I have worked on difficult cases on all our Circuit Court's dockets. I have worked with attorneys and unrepresented persons to effectively resolve disputes without the need for trials or hearings. I have earned a reputation for having the legal acumen, temperament, attention to detail, and docket-management skills required of a first-rate judge. Because of my training and qualifications for this position, I have the endorsement of the entire Oakland County Circuit Court Family Division bench.</p>

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