

VOTER GUIDE – AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE – District 45
Tuesday, August 4, 2020
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

1) click on ‘Voter Guides’ then scroll down to ‘Judges’

for a link to additional candidate responses on www.OCBA.org website;

2) click on ‘Candidate Forums’ then scroll down to see forum for judicial candidates on 7/14

6 Candidates for DISTRICT JUDGE for ONE 6-year Term; *Vote for no more than ONE*
District 45 includes Huntington Woods, Oak Park and Pleasant Ridge; Royal Oak Township.

<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.</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.</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?</p>
<p>DARREN GROW</p> <p>Education: Berkley High School (1989); B.A. History: Yale University (1993); Juris Doctorate, University of Detroit School of Law (1997)</p> <p>Career: Bar and Restaurant Manager: The Old Shillelagh (Detroit); The Well (Detroit); Vivio’s (Detroit) (1994 – 1999). Law Clerk: Feikens, Vandermale, Stevens, Bellamy & Gilchrist (1995-1997); Law Clerk and of Counsel, Hughes & Hughes, PLLC: 1997-1998; Darren T. Grow, Attorney at Law, Sole Proprietor: 1998 – Present; Owner Operator: The Belmont (Hamtramck) (2000 – 2013); The Rhino (Detroit) (2006). Executive Director, Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority (2009 – 2013). Community Service: Big Brothers and Big Sisters of New Haven, CT (1994 – 1997). Organizational Affiliation: Loyal Order of The Moose (2010 – Present).</p>	<p>I am a General Practitioner with experience in criminal law (mostly misdemeanors), civil litigation, real estate transactions, landlord tenant law (landlords and tenants), small business and corporate formation and dispute resolution, Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning (with some elder care), Probate (Guardianships and Decedent Estates), and Traffic and Blight issues. The majority of my practice is in district court or of a transactional nature. I have practiced in most district courts in Southeast Michigan as well as Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Probate Courts and Wayne and Oakland Circuit Courts. I have also handled matters in Monroe, Grand Rapids, Howell and other municipalities and counties throughout the State. I am proud to have served clients that span a truly diverse range of ages, races, religions, sexual orientations and socio-economic backgrounds.</p>	<p>My temperament, patience and ability to set ego aside and to relate to people from all walks of life will greatly benefit me and my constituents should I be elected. While some of my opponents have more trial experience than I my diverse educational and professional background will allow me to bring to the bench the comprehensive attributes of education, experience and managerial skill that our community needs. It is not sufficient to just know the law. An excellent judge is an efficient court manager and partner to the court administrator and a leader in the community. It is in this capacity that I excel, and it is why I decided to become a candidate for district judge.</p>

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE - District 45 (Continued)

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<p>RICHARD HALPRIN</p> <p>I graduated from MSU in 1986 with a BA, and graduated Cum Laude from the University of Detroit Law School in 1989. Thereafter, I worked for a firm handling civil and criminal litigation for 2 years before starting my own practice. Since 1991, I have maintained my practice and became a founding member of the Michigan Children’s Law Center, representing at risk youth in juvenile court. In 2006, I was appointed magistrate in the 45th District Court, and still preside over criminal, civil and traffic cases, approximately 14,000 cases. I also work with a legal aid clinic, addressing both civil and criminal matters. I am on the board of Oak Park Youth Assistance, Tri Community Coalition and the William Booth Legal Aid Clinic.</p>	<p>While I have significant experience in commercial and civil litigation, the focus of my career has been on representing the most vulnerable members of society, including indigent clients in the criminal and civil justice system, abuse and neglect victims, juvenile court respondents and clients with mental illness or addiction challenges throughout metropolitan Detroit. My clients are typically low income individuals or families, often minorities, who haven’t had enough stability or access to adequate services and don’t necessarily trust the government or the court system.</p>	<p>Voters want well rounded, kind hearted, even keeled and open minded judges that embrace diversity, efficiently manage a docket and make sound decisions free of malice or biases. Peers describe me as smart, observant, patient, calm, curious, creative, respectful and an outside the box problem solver. I have worked as a janitor, journalist, artist, attorney and magistrate. I easily relate with working class people and the wealthy. In my years as an attorney and magistrate, I have developed an ability to manage fast paced, busy dockets, understand a wide spectrum of perspectives and empathetically fashion solutions that decisively but respectfully address pertinent issues. These skills will allow me to preside over a courtroom and reach fair, reasonable and just decisions.</p>

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE - District 45 (Continued)

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<p>JAIMIE POWELL HOROWITZ</p> <p>Jaimie Powell Horowitz serves as Special Prosecutor for the Fair Michigan Justice Project, appointed by Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy to prosecute hate crimes. She trains law enforcement in prosecuting hate crimes, on improving community relations, and serves as a Special Assistant Attorney General handling select cold case homicides.</p> <p>Horowitz graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 2004 and began as an Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor serving in the Trial Division, Elder Abuse Unit, and Homicide Unit. She has served on the Ethics Board for Huntington Woods, the Oak Park - Huntington Woods Democratic Club Executive Board, the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly, and the Wayne County Elder Abuse Advisory Council.</p> <p>In 2019 she was honored by the OCDP with the Wings of Justice Award, in recognition of her contribution to the fight against injustice, hatred, and intolerance.</p>	<p>I have spent my career in public service, first as an Assistant Prosecutor handling cases involving sexual assault, child abuse, vulnerable adult abuse, financial exploitation, domestic violence, and homicide. In 2016 I joined Fair Michigan, a non-profit whose mission it is to improve law enforcement relations with marginalized communities and prosecute hate crimes. Since 2016, we've concentrated on homicides involving LGBTQ victims and training law enforcement in cultural competency when handling cases involving LGBTQ victims. We have also focused on training prosecutors and law enforcement throughout the state in prosecuting hate crimes, and worked to obtain funding and/or partnerships with other organizations that assist in tackling the intersecting issues faced by marginalized communities such as employment, temporary shelter when displaced by violence, and mental health services.</p>	<p>I want to continue the good work that is being done at 45th District Court. Currently the Court has Veteran's Court and Mental Health Court. Specialty Courts help serve the citizens by diverting those who need services out of the criminal system. I am an advocate for criminal justice reform. Courts that address the intersecting issues of mental health, substance abuse, poverty, lack of education, and institutionalized racism help to reform the justice system when we treat citizens as individuals. I have spent my career in public service and continuously worked to ensure equal access to justice for all. I will bring this commitment to the bench if elected to serve as Judge of the 45th District Court.</p>
<p>DIANA L. MCCLAIN</p>	<p align="center">DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</p>	

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE - District 45 (Continued)

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<p>GIL WHITNEY MCRIPLEY</p> <p>I have had the honor of being raised in Royal Oak Twp. and being able to come back to my local community after attending U of D - BA, U of M - MA and T.M. Cooley Law School. Coming back to a community in need and becoming the youngest elected Supervisor at the time to bring a municipality out of receivership and maintain its historical assistance. Practicing law for 32 years in the State/Federal Courts of Michigan and representing those who have lacked the financial wherewithal to retain their own counsel thinking that their finances will not get them an proficient representative. Indigent defense in criminal, family and juvenile as well as probate matters are mainstays of a practice. Experience counts Citizens need to see someone with their like experiences.</p>	<p>From my first initial representation, I have represented and counseled criminal adults and children. Likewise, all parties in family and probate matters. I have a general law private practice. Basically, all areas of the law of which individuals come into contact with the legal system. I have sought the experience and education to represent all individuals who need legal assistance. Over the last 32 years, I have tried cases involving life matters and assisted families in the family/juvenile court along with the District Court. Maintaining the best interest of the parties. Letting people know that people care.</p>	<p>In times like these, with issues of diversity and inclusion, you can not just say these words and seek to be elected. The community is diverse and the bench should favor its community. I have the experience, the temperament and the background to be an influence to others all while serving the communities of the district within the law. District Court sometimes is the first contact that a person will have with any court. People should be treated with respect and respect will be given in return. They should have a jurist who has the background of being one of "them". A person/jurist is not above the law or above a citizen. A citizen will know that he will be treated fairly and without bias. I believe that I bring this to the bench of the 45th District Court.</p>

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<p>BRENDA RICHARD</p> <p>I earned a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies from Wayne State University (1991); and a JD from WSU Law School (1995). I clerked for a general practitioner during law school. I was an Associate at two law firms (1996-1997 and 1999-2001); the Legal Services Director for the Women’s Justice Center (1998- 1999); and formed a partnership with two colleagues (2007-2009). At all other times I’ve practiced as a sole practitioner. I was elected as a Precinct Delegate in 2018, performing telephone and neighborhood canvassing. I have provided free legal services through the William Booth Law Clinic and free legal consultations for SAAS (Sisters Against Abuse Society). I am a member of the Michigan Democratic Party, the Oakland County Bar Association, and the Wolverine Bar Association.</p>	<p>I have 25 years of legal experience. My practice spans many areas of the law. Although my primary area of practice is family law, I have expertise in personal injury, criminal defense, employment law, probate, landlord/tenant, consumer protection, contract disputes, small claims, civil infractions, and juvenile law. My geographic practice area is concentrated in Oakland, Wayne, and Macomb counties. However, I’ve also had cases in Monroe, Genesee, Washtenaw, St. Clair, and Calhoun. I’ve practiced in Circuit and District Court. My client base consists, primarily, of the middle and working class. While at the Women’s Justice Center, I assisted lower income residents of Wayne County, and residents of My Sister’s Place (a shelter for victims of domestic violence), in family law related and housing disputes.</p>	<p>I will listen, and I will understand. As an attorney one of my frustrations is leaving a courtroom with the belief that the judge did not understand my client’s position. Litigants end up in court because they are at a difficult point in their lives. They don’t want to be there but, once they are there, they want to be heard. Litigants need to know that a judge fully understands what brought them to court. I will administer justice with dignity, fairness, and respect. I am mild-mannered and will provide even-handed justice delivered with respect. Both sides of the aisle will know that I care what happens to them and to the community, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, or social background.</p>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates’ statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.