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James M. Biernat Jr., Chief Judge
16th Judicial Circuit Court,
Macomb County Probate Court,
42nd District Courts

News



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Judge Mary Chrzanowski 586-469-5149

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Judge Chrzanowski Appointed Federal Administrative Law Judge

On Tuesday, January 19, 2016, Judge Mary Chrzanowski of the 16th Circuit Court in Macomb County accepted an appointment as a Federal Administrative Law Judge. “This is a dream come true for me,” stated Judge Chrzanowski. “It has been a privilege serving on the Macomb Bench for over twenty-three years and I cannot think of a better way to continue my career in public service. I am honored to have been chosen for this post.”

Judge Chrzanowski was originally asked to report to her new position by February 8 of this year, but requested and was granted an extension. She was starting jury selection on a murder trial and uncertain if the trial could be finished in time for her February 8 start date. With the extension, Judge Chrzanowski will be able to complete the trial and also have more time to get her affairs in order. She will begin her new federal post on June 26, 2016.

Judge Chrzanowski received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, graduating "With Distinction" in 1982 from Wayne State University, and earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1985. She started her legal career in private practice and was a former Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Macomb County. In November 1992, she became the first woman ever elected in a contested race to the 16th Judicial Circuit Court. She was subsequently re-elected in 1998, 2004 and 2010 for full six-year terms. Judge Chrzanowski was featured on NBC's Dateline, and interviewed by Lester Holt in June of 2014. "Scary Mary Presiding" focused on Judge Chrzanowski's life and work with the Warren and Macomb County Juvenile Drug Courts. She currently presides over civil and criminal matters as well as the Juvenile Drug Court.

“I am very happy for Judge Chrzanowski,” stated Circuit Court Judge Diane Druzinski. “I have had the pleasure of serving with Mary for over thirteen years and have great respect for her both personally and professionally. She has an extraordinary work ethic and has earned this appointment. Additionally, she is a kind person and a good friend. I wish her all the best.”

“I had the privilege of sponsoring Judge Chrzanowski’s admission to the bar and watching her grow from a young lawyer to the respected jurist she has become. I am pleased she has achieved this accomplishment and wish her all the best in this new chapter of her career,” expressed Circuit Court Judge Edward Servitto.

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On behalf of the entire 16th Circuit Bench, Chief Judge James Biernat, Jr. stated, “Judge Chrzanowski has been a part of this Court and legal community for decades and has served the people of Macomb well through her tremendous passion and dedication. We are happy for her and wish her well in her new role. She will be missed here in Macomb County.”

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