

PRESS RELEASE

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OAKLAND CIRCUIT JUDGE HONORED AT ANNUAL EVENT

Oakland County, MI (October 17, 2005) – The Honorable Fred M. Mester, Oakland County Circuit Court Judge, was recognized for his meritorious service to the community on September 28, 2005 at the 13th Annual *Quality People, Quality County* event hosted by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. The purpose of the award was to express sincere appreciation to those individuals and businesses that have given their time and talents to help build a better community. Voted by *The Detroit News* readers as one of the top three civil or criminal judges for 2005, Judge Mester has generously contributed his time above and beyond his regular responsibilities to serve the community.

Earlier this year, Judge Mester was honored with the Oakland County Bar Association Diversity Committee Leon Hubbard Award for being the topmost individual who had achieved an outstanding record of community service, had promoted cultural diversity and social equality, and worked to improve the quality of life for all people. Judge Mester served as Co-Chair of the NAACP's 75th Anniversary in Oakland County and was involved in establishing the annual Central Michigan University Lem Tucker scholarship. In addition, he was presented with the Frances R. Avadenka Memorial Award at the Oakland County Bar Association Annual Meeting Dinner as an individual who made significant contributions to the community outside of the legal profession.

Judge Mester has been influential in the Pontiac Alumni Foundation's efforts to resolve the widespread problems affecting the Pontiac community and its youth. Under his leadership, the Pontiac Alumni Foundation started a mentoring program last year for middle school students to help them stay on the right path to success. His leadership has resulted in the active engagement of many responsible community leaders and corporations on behalf of Pontiac's youth.

Judge Mester has been a circuit judge since 1982 and has received many awards for his professional and civic contributions including, the John N. O'Brien Memorial Award for Distinguished Community Activities and the NAACP Humanitarian Award. A recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Central Michigan University, his service to the bench was recognized in 1990 when he received the Michigan Corrections Association Judicial Award for extraordinary contributions to the enhancement of the judicial system.

Recipients in this year's *Quality People, Quality County* awards along with Judge Mester were David Fischer, owner of Suburban Collection, an auto dealership with 27 franchises, who has generously provided "Teacher of the Year Program" honorees a car free of charge for one year in appreciation of the differences made in the lives of children; and to Larry Donaldson, owner of Larry's Soul Food on East Pike Street in Pontiac, who involves his restaurant in numerous charitable and community services.

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An electronic photograph of Judge Mester with L. Brooks Patterson at the Quality People, Quality County event is available. For a copy, please contact Marcia Travis at travism@co.oakland.mi.us