

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Investiture of Sixth Circuit Court Judge Leo Bowman**

**Oakland County, MI** (March 28, 2007) – The Honorable Leo Bowman was sworn in as the newest circuit judge in Oakland County during an investiture ceremony that took place at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. Chief Judge Wendy Potts presided over the formal ceremony which was held in the Board of Commissioners Auditorium of the Oakland County Courthouse. Judge Bowman is a 1981 graduate of the University of Detroit Law School and recently joined the Sixth Circuit Court after serving 18 years as a district judge in Pontiac.

Governor Granholm appointed Judge Bowman to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Deborah Tyner in January of this year. Judge Bowman assumes the family division docket of Judge Daniel O'Brien.

“Today I want to publicly thank Governor Granholm for selecting me for elevation to the Sixth Circuit Court,” stated Judge Bowman. “I am mindful of the high standards the Governor sets for judicial selection. I remain humbled by the confidence she has shown in me with this appointment. The memory of the events of today will be with me until the last day, last hour, last second of my life.”

Before administration of the Oath of Office by the Honorable Damon Keith of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, attendees heard remarks about Judge Bowman from several distinguished speakers including Kelly Keenan, Legal Counsel to the Governor; Dennis Archer, former Mayor of Detroit, past Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, past President of National Bar Association and American Bar Association, and now an attorney with the law firm of Dickinson Wright; the Honorable Brian MacKenzie, 52<sup>nd</sup> District Court; the Honorable Christopher Brown, retired, 50<sup>th</sup> District Court; and David Gorcycya, Oakland County Prosecutor. The event included presentations by L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive; John Schaefer, President of the Oakland County Bar Association; and Judge Bowman's wife and three sons, and ended with a ceremonial seating of the new judge by Circuit Court Chief Judge Wendy Potts and Chief Judge Pro Tem James Alexander. The ceremony was attended by family and friends of Judge Bowman, members of the judiciary, and state and local dignitaries.

As a respected member of the legal community, Judge Bowman has been affiliated with numerous associations such as the American Bar Association, American Judges Association, Association of Black Judges of Michigan, D. Augustus Straker Bar, Michigan Bar Association, Michigan District Judges Association, National Bar Association, Oakland County Bar Association, Oakland District Judges Association, and Wolverine Bar Association. Prior to his election as district judge, he served as the first Legislative Auditor (Legal Advisor) to the Pontiac City Council and as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Pontiac.

Judge Bowman has received many awards including the Pontiac Urban League "*Ronald H. Brown Excellence in Leadership Award*," Northern Oakland County NAACP "*Community Treasurer's Award*," the first "*Spirit of the Community Award*" from Oakland Community College, Minority Women's Network "*Judge of the Year*," Oakland County Bar Association's "*Leon Hubbard Award*," and Oakland County Democratic Commissioner's "*Alex Perinoff Award, Elected Official of the Year 1997*."

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**An electronic photograph of Judge Leo Bowman is available. For a copy, please contact Marcia Travis at [travism@oakgov.com](mailto:travism@oakgov.com)**