

PRESS RELEASE

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Investiture of Sixth Circuit Court Judge Shalina Kumar

Oakland County, MI (October 25, 2007) – The Honorable Shalina Kumar was sworn in as the newest circuit judge in Oakland County during an investiture ceremony that took place at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 25, 2007. Judge Kumar is a 1996 graduate of the University of Detroit-Mercy Law School and recently joined the Sixth Circuit Court after serving in private practice for 10 years.

Circuit Chief Judge Wendy Potts presided over the formal ceremony which was held in the Board of Commissioners Auditorium of the Oakland County Courthouse in Pontiac. Receiving her commission from Governor Granholm in August, Judge Kumar follows in the footsteps of retired Circuit Judge Gene Schnelz who served the Court from 1976 – 2007. She assumes the civil criminal division docket of Judge Schnelz and will maintain chambers on the first floor of the Courthouse tower.

“I am extremely honored to be joining such a distinguished bench and look forward to serving the citizens of Oakland County in a fair and just manner,” stated Judge Kumar.

The ceremony was attended by colleagues, family, and friends of Judge Kumar. Before the administration of the Oath of Office by Judge Potts, attendees heard remarks about Judge Kumar from several distinguished speakers including the Honorable Deborah Servitto of the Michigan Court of Appeals; the Honorable Steven N. Andrews, Presiding Judge of the Civil Criminal Division of Oakland County Circuit Court; Peter Alter from the law firm of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, LLP; Robert Riley of Riley & Hurley, PC; Cyril Weiner of Weiner & Cox, PLC; and Dr. Kamalesh Lahiri, William Beaumont Hospital physician.

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The event included presentations by the Honorable Sean Cox, United States District Court; David Gorcyca, Oakland County Prosecutor; Michael Sullivan, President of the Oakland County Bar Association; Brad Conkey, Sylvan Lake City Council; Dr. Krishna Kumar and Margaret Kumar, parents of Judge Kumar; and ended with a ceremonial seating of the new judge by Oakland Circuit Judge Fred Mester.

As a respected member of the legal community, Judge Kumar is on the executive board of the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association; a member of the Women's Bar Association, Michigan Association of Justice, Oakland County Bar Association, and the American Association of Justice; and has served on the Sylvan Lake City Council.

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