

PRESS RELEASE

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OAKLAND PROBATE JUDGES GRANT AND PEZZETTI HONORED AT AWARD CEREMONY

Oakland County, MI (May 2, 2007) – In a ceremony at the Birmingham Country Club, the Oakland County Republican Party honored Oakland County probate Judges Barry M. Grant and Elizabeth Pezzetti at its 24th *Annual Salute to Justice* event held on April 18, 2007. Hosted by Republican Party Chairman Dennis Cowan, both judges were individually recognized for their contributions and dedicated professional service to both the Court and community.

The “2007 Lifetime Achievement Award” was presented to the Honorable Barry Grant, Chief Judge of the Probate Court. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes those who have given exceptional judiciary service and continuous support, generosity, and service to the Oakland County community. Judge Grant has been instrumental in many initiatives that have brought better quality of life to many youth and families in Oakland County.

Grant has served as a probate judge since 1977. He is the longest serving member in the history of the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission and serves on the Board of Trustees for William Beaumont Hospital. He is past president of the Michigan Probate Judges Association and served as president of the National College of Probate Judges. A graduate of Wayne State University Law School, Grant has authored weekly articles for *The Detroit Free Press* and *The Detroit News*. Furthermore, he created the Oakland County Judges Association and was its first president. Prior to his election to the bench, he was an assistant prosecuting attorney for Oakland County and also served on the Southfield Board of Education.

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The “2007 John N. O’Brien Award” was given this year to the Honorable Elizabeth Pezzetti. This award recognizes an individual who best exemplifies the qualities of distinguished service for contributions to the community through public service, participation in charitable endeavors, and volunteer service.

Judge Pezzetti, currently Chief Judge Pro Tem of the Probate Court, has sat on the Oakland County probate bench since 2001 and serves in the family division of the Circuit Court. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she graduated from Wayne State University Law School where she was a member of the Law Review and Order of the Coif. She later partnered with the law firm of Dickinson Wright where she specialized in employment law, commercial litigation, school law, and media law. She is a Fellow of the Michigan Bar Foundation, the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, and Chancellor of the Oakland County Bar Association Inn of Court. She served as a Board member of the Michigan Women’s Commission, the Oakland County Business Round Table, Oakland Livingston Legal Aid and Operation Able.

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Electronic photographs of Judge Barry Grant and Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti are available. For a copy of each, please contact Marcia Travis at travism@oakgov.com