



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Oakland Circuit Judge James Alexander Receives Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Oakland County, MI** (April 21, 2009) – A special award ceremony will take place on Thursday, April 23, 2009, as Oakland County Circuit Judge James Alexander is honored with the first *Change for Children Lifetime Achievement* award given by the St. Clair Butterfly Foundation for his commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of children in Michigan. The award ceremony will be highlighted during the *Take Flight* event to launch the St. Clair Butterfly Foundation as a community outreach program to help children under adversity going through the healing process to realize their potential to soar. The event will be held at the Franklin residence of the president of the foundation, David Grossman.

Chip St. Clair, founder and executive director of the Butterfly Foundation, said Judge Alexander deserves to be recognized because “he is a strong proponent of children’s rights and holds DHS and child protective services accountable to protecting children.”

“I am surprised and honored to receive this award,” stated Judge Alexander. “While the award is being given to me, it reflects the commitment and dedication of the many men and women with whom I serve in the family division, both in Oakland County and throughout the State of Michigan. We don’t do this for accolades or awards, but for the joy of making a difference in the life of a child.”

Judge Alexander was appointed to the Oakland County Circuit Court by Governor John Engler in August 2001 and elected to a second full term in 2008. He is currently the circuit chief judge pro

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tempore and has served in this capacity since 2004, in addition to his role as the presiding judge of the family division from 2004 to 2008.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Alexander was director of the Governor's Southeast Michigan Office where he acted as liaison between the Governor's office and business, economic, and governmental community of the tri-county areas. He is the president-elect of the Michigan Judges Association and member of the Michigan State Bar Association. He previously served as chairman of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section for the State Bar; co-chair of the Oakland County Bar Association Legislative Committee; and as chairman of the Commercial Arbitration Advisory Board Foundation. Judge Alexander is the recipient of the Bar Foundation's Frances Avadenka Memorial Award for his "outstanding and significant contributions to the Oakland County Community."

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