

Hohman named to state post

BY RAY KISONAS

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Monroe County Probate Judge John A. Hohman Jr. has been elected president of a statewide judicial organization, the first time in almost two decades that a local judge has held such a position.

In a unanimous vote, the Michigan Probate Judges Association (MPJA) elected Judge Hohman to serve as its president for the next year. His leadership took effect at the beginning of this month.

Judge Hohman, who has served



JOHN A.
HOHMAN JR.

on the probate bench since 1997 and presides over family and probate cases in Monroe County, said it usually takes about eight years for an association member to become the president. But he was recruited in 2005 when he began his tenure on the executive board.

"It's an honor," Judge Hohman said. "It is a considerable amount of work, which I enjoy, and it is an opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people."

The MPJA is the organizational body of Michigan's 104 probate judges and has been in existence since 1898. As president, Judge Hohman's responsibilities include working with the Supreme Court, presiding over meetings and coordinating the MPJA annual educational conference.

Also as president, Judge Hohman will offer comments and promote certain legislation pertaining to probate court issues, such as juvenile and mental health laws, estates and divorces.

His appointment as president of a state judge's association is believed to be the first since 1979, when the late Judge Harry Seitz served.

Fellow Monroe County Probate Judge Pamela A. Moskwa said Judge Hohman will make an excellent MPJA president.

"This is a very important and prestigious leadership position in the Michigan Judiciary," Judge Moskwa said. "He brings a great deal of experience and talent to the post of president and has a positive, energetic leadership style; insight, and organizational

skill. I am very proud to have him on our bench."

During his years on the bench, Judge Hohman has volunteered for various activities and organizations, including the Judicial Conference of the State Bar of Michigan, Model Civil Jury Instruction Committee and Judicial Resource Committee.

Judge Hohman has been selected as a faculty member of several judicial education programs, including the New Judges School, Institute for Continuing Legal Education and Supreme Court Annual Judicial Conference.

One of his more prominent developments was the creation of the Juvenile Drug Court in 2001. The intensive substance-abuse therapy program has served 119 families since its existence.