



Berrien County Trial Court

Courthouse - 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085
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Paul L. Maloney
Chief Trial Judge

Alice E. Baker
Executive Secretary

Administrative Order C02-2004-02J

Designation of Successor Circuit Judges from 2004 Election

Two incumbent 2nd Circuit Judges, the Honorable John T. Hammond, and the Honorable Casper O. Grathwohl, cannot seek re-election in the 2004 election under Article VI, Section 19 of the 1963 Michigan Constitution. By operation of statute, the election to determine successor Judges will be conducted without designation as to which particular non-incumbent judgeship a candidate is seeking. See MCL 168.424a. Therefore, for purposes of designating successors in office, this Administrative Order is issued.

The Judgeship held by the Honorable Casper O. Grathwohl is the original Circuit Judgeship for Berrien County established in 1836. The Judgeship held by the Honorable John T. Hammond was first occupied in 1969, created by action of the legislature. The Court, finding no controlling law on the issue of succession in these circumstances, consulting with the Supreme Court Administrator's Office, and wishing to determine the matter before the November election, does

ORDER that the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for Circuit Judge in the Non-Incumbent 2004 election will succeed the Honorable Casper O. Grathwohl. The candidate receiving the second highest number of votes will succeed the Honorable John T. Hammond.

DATED: October 1, 2004

PAUL L. MALONEY, Chief Judge
Berrien County Circuit Court
Berrien County Trial Court

PLM/ab