

Detroit Legal News.

News You Cannot Get Anywhere Else

LOGIN | SUBSCRIBE | ADVERTISE | HELP

Published: Tuesday, July 21, 2009

FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL CALENDAR STATISTICS NOTICES COURTS DETROIT / WAYNE COUNTY FORMS CLASSIFIEDS CONTACT US ABOUT US

Current Path:



Wayne County Circuit Court joins courts across the state to celebrate Juror Appreciation Month

By Taryn Hartman

Legal News

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Ed Ewell, presiding judge of the court's criminal division, told a room full of prospective jurors at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice that he knew many of them didn't want to be there a little after 8 a.m. on a Monday morning.

"We recognize it's a hardship," Ewell said of jury duty shortly before addressing the group yesterday in honor of July's designation as Juror Appreciation Month by the Michigan Supreme Court. At the same time, he continued, jury service is "a privilege we as citizens have to protect people who are accused of crimes."

Ewell told the packed house the court couldn't do its job without jurors and that the jury aspect of the American legal system makes it the envy of countries around the world.

"Jury service gets a bad rap, but I think we really need to turn that around because it's something that gives a lot back," Ewell said. "It's one of the few opportunities we have to exercise our rights as citizens."

"Jury service is the community's participation in the justice system," said Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly. "Juror Appreciation Month recognizes that jury service is truly democracy in action."

In a resolution designating July as Juror Appreciation Month, the Court said that "the right to trial by jury is one of the core values of American citizenship."

Kelly said she hopes that Juror Appreciation Month encourages potential jurors to respond willingly when summoned.

"For most of us, our first thought on getting a jury summons is 'How do I get out of it?'" the chief justice noted. "But in my experience, even the most reluctant jurors find the experience very rewarding. They come away with a renewed appreciation for the justice system, and for their part in bringing justice to those whose cases they hear."

In a county as large and diverse as Wayne, Ewell said it's important to have a diverse group of jurors deciding each case, as seeing people who look like them on the jury helps those accused of crimes feel comfortable in court.

MaryKay Wimsatt of the circuit court's jury services department said the court summons an average of 1,200 citizens to jury duty each week. For the past few months, the number who report to Frank Murphy has averaged 874. Only four full-time employees handle the work of processing so many jurors.

Someone from the court, usually a judge, addresses the jury pool every weekday morning except on Fridays, Ewell said.

"As a trial judge, I think it's one of the cooler things we do," he added, explaining that once they get over their initial grumbling about serving, jurors often bond with one another and form friendships.

"This is something I take very, very seriously," Ewell said of jury duty. "People have fought for this right, died for it."

Published: 7/21/09

Advertisements

Guaranteed Highest Buying Prices in Michigan
 RARE COINS • CURRENCY • GOLD • SILVER
 BOUGHT • SOLD • APPRAISED

Established 1936
Abbott's Corporation
 33700 Woodward Ave., Birmingham, MI 48019
 (248) 644 - 8565 • www.abbottscorp.com

PRIVACY CERTIFIED CONFIDENTIALS IN MICHIGAN
 Michigan Analytical Legal Report

"Let us show you how to diversify your portfolio with rare coins and precious metals!"

Rancilio & Associates

The Complete Legal Support Solution

- Process Service
- Eviction Specialists
- Execution Sales
- Certificate of Liens
- Property Forfeitures
- Divorce Papers
- Personal Protection Orders
- Small Claim Specialists
- Court Officers on Staff
- Real Property Searches

lenjr@rancoassociates.com
 http://www.rancoassociates.com
(586) 792-4620
 FULLY BONDED

36809 Groesbeck Hwy. ■ Clinton Township, MI 48035

DETROIT LEGAL NEWS PUBLISHING FAMILY

[Detroit Legal News](#)
[Macomb County Legal News](#)
[Oakland County Legal News](#)

[Flint-Genesee County Legal News](#)

[Grand Rapids Legal News](#)
[Ingham County Legal News](#)
[Jackson County Legal News](#)
[Muskegon County Legal News](#)
[Washtenaw County Legal News](#)

COPYRIGHT DETROIT LEGAL NEWS PUBLISHING L.L.C . INFLUENCING THE LEGAL COMMUNITY SINCE 1895

[Terms Of Use](#) [Privacy Policy](#)