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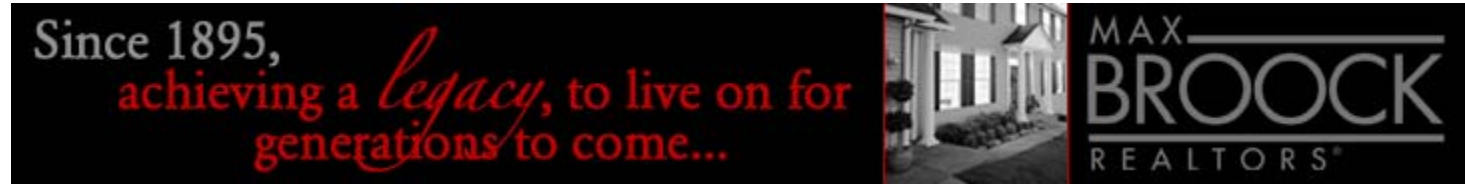
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Judge: Give yourself a pat on the back if you've ever been a juror

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"I consider trial by jury as the only anchor ever yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution." - Thomas Jefferson

The Michigan Supreme Court has signed a resolution proclaiming the month of July Juror Appreciation Month for 2007. The citizens of this community deserve to be recognized since our court system could not survive without the citizens who serve as jurors.

The right to a trial by one's peers is central to our country's democratic form of government. In fact, it was the colonists' loss of that right that prompted the Revolutionary War. Due to the efforts of our founding fathers, a trial by jury is a right that each citizen possesses in the United States and Michigan

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service. To qualify as a potential juror one must be a United States citizen, at least 18 years old, and must be a resident of the court district to which he/she is summoned.

The second most frequently asked question that I receive from potential jurors is, "Is there a limit as to how many times I can be called for jury duty?"

The only limitation is that a person cannot serve on a jury more than once in a 12-month period.

While many people view jury service as an inconvenience when they receive their notice to appear, it should be noted that participation in jury trials provides citizens with an opportunity to incorporate community values into dispute resolution. It also allows them to guard against the abuse of power by legislatures, businesses, governmental agencies, or individual judges to protect the rights of all citizens.

For all of you who have had the opportunity to sit as a juror in court, give yourself a pat on the back for helping to ensure that the constitutional rights of your fellow citizens were upheld.

For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to serve as a juror, don't grimace if and when you ever get a notice to appear for jury duty. It really isn't all that bad.

Constitutions.

The most frequently asked question that I receive from prospective jurors is, "How am I identified as a potential juror?"

The jury pool for each court comes from a list of licensed drivers and state ID card holders in the court's district. Anyone who has been convicted of a felony is not eligible for jury



Judge Julie Nicholson

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Julie Nicholson is a judge at the 5 2/3 District Court in Rochester Hills. The court also serves Auburn Hills, Rochester, Lake Angelus, Lake Orion, Oxford and the townships of Oakland, Addison, Leonard, Orion and Oxford. You can e-mail your questions to nicholsonj@co.oakland.mi.us or mail them to Judge Nicholson's attention at 700 Barclay Circle, Rochester Hills, MI 48307.

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