

Judge Tracey Yokich: Keeping Kids Healthy & Safe

“Service” is much more than just a seven-letter word for Macomb County Circuit Court Judge Tracey Yokich.

From her previous roles in the Michigan Air National Guard and the Michigan House of Representatives to her current role on the bench, she is well-versed on what it means to serve the public. But this focus was instilled in her long before she charted her career path.

“As far back as I can remember, my parents were always engaged in helping others,” she shared. “I remember my father being concerned about whether our neighbors had food on the table, access to good and affordable health care, safe working conditions, and a living wage.”

Judge Yokich was first appointed to the Macomb County Probate Court in 2003 and a year later, she was elected to the Circuit Court, where she currently serves in the Family Division. With her docket consisting of issues relating to the welfare and well-being of children—divorce, child abuse and neglect, juvenile offenders—Judge Yokich is passionate about giving back outside of the courtroom toward efforts with that same focus.

Shortly after joining the Family Division in 2004, she says she “jumped at the chance” to serve on the Governor’s Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect for what ended up being a nine-year stretch.

Judge Yokich has had the opportunity to serve on a number of local health-related boards where she developed a deep appreciation for many of the challenges facing families in their struggle for access to affordable and quality health care.

In 2008, she joined the Children’s Hospital of Michigan (CHM) Northeast Advisory Board. “Through the Advisory Board, I was given the opportunity to provide community input on a variety of issues, including access to health care,” she explained.

Three years later, she joined the main CHM Board of Trustees, where she continues to serve today.

“My time with Children’s Hospital has been very personally rewarding and I couldn’t be prouder to be able to support the health care professionals who care for children,” said Judge Yokich. “With my very talented colleagues on the Board and an extraordinary staff of health care professionals, Children’s Hospital works to provide exceptional health care to Michigan’s most vulnerable patients.”

Michigan Supreme Court Justice Kurtis Wilder, who serves on the CHM Foundation Board, hails Judge Yokich's contributions. "Health care is such an important issue to our community and there is no one who is a greater advocate than Judge Yokich," he remarked.

Prior to giving her time on the CHM Board, Judge Yokich has also volunteered with many other local organizations, including Turning Point shelter (for victims of domestic violence) and a free legal clinic based at Most Holy Trinity Church in Detroit.

"I have been very blessed," remarked Judge Yokich. "I hope that I will always have the energy, capacity, and compassion to help those who are in need, especially children."