

Subscribe: **MORNING SUN** 

A MORNING STAR PUBLISHING COMPANY

SEARCH Go

MORNING SUN

LOCAL NEWS

SITE MENU:

Home

CLASSIFIEDS

Jobs Autos Homes

Other News Links

[HOME](#) > [Local News](#) > Governor appoints new judge for Gratiot

Local News

 
Email Print

PUBLISHED: Wednesday, August 22, 2007

Governor appoints new judge for Gratiot

By **SUSAN FIELD**
Clare Managing Editor

A DeWitt attorney who has been a deputy legal counsel for the governor's office, a senior assistant attorney general and an assistant prosecutor in Livingston County has been appointed judge in Gratiot and Clinton counties.

Michelle Rick's term is effective Sept. 10 after Gov. Jennifer Granholm appointed her to replace Judge Jeffrey Martlew, who retired in late April and teaches at the Cooley Law School Grand Rapids campus.

Gratiot County Circuit Judge Randy Tahvonen, who has been on the bench for 29 years, met Rick for the first time Monday when she visited the courts in Ithaca and St. Johns.

Tahvonen and Martlew had divided up the docket with Tahvonen handling civil claims and half of the criminal cases; now, he and Rick will review what each will handle, he said.

Tahvonen believes that residents should care about who is appointed to judgeships.


"I think it matters and I think ordinary people should care," Tahvonen said. "A judge can have a great impact on an individual, whether it involves a divorce case, or a custody case or a criminal case.



RETAIL ADS

Advertisement

Attention - Participation Required

 **CONGRATULATIONS!**

You have been selected for prize #MH-1102.
\$500 Free in Gas! (Details apply.)

Click "Yes" to claim your prize.

Yes No



TOP JOBS

TOP AUTOS

TOP HOMES

TOP RENTALS

"People don't see it affecting them. But when you need a neurosurgeon, it's pretty important who it is. It's understandable people don't spend time worrying about who the judge is."

Rick, who is a scout leader for the Girl Scouts of Michigan Capital Council and has served as a mock trial judge for the Michigan Center for Civil Education, most recently served as a deputy legal counsel for Granholm's office and was with the Michigan Attorney General's office from 1995 to 2006.

While serving in the governor's office, Rick has been a co-designee for Homeland Security matters and an executive branch appointee to the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

She also has overseen legal matters involving the governor's office and the civil rights, community health, corrections, education, and health and human services departments.

Rick represented Michigan departments, agencies and consumers in state and federal antitrust and consumer protection enforcement actions in the attorney general's office from 2001 to 2006.

Between 1997 and 2001, she represented the state's five retirement systems in contested case hearings in the attorney general's office, providing legal counsel to the systems on topics including defined benefit and defined contribution plans, health insurance benefits for members and their beneficiaries and service credit purchases.

She was also an adjunct faculty member at Lansing Community College, where she was a legal writing instructor and Tort law instructor for the school's paralegal program.

From Aug. 2001 to May 2002, Rick instructed first-year law students in the research, writing and advocacy curriculum at the Michigan State University College of Law.

During her time in the Livingston County Prosecutor's office, Rick handled misdemeanor offenses and prosecuted felony offenses.

She also served as a liaison between the prosecutor's office and the local domestic violence shelter, and assisted Prosecutor David Morse in training county law enforcement officers on domestic violence investigations. Rick earned her law degree from the University of Detroit and her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. Rick's term expires Jan. 1, 2009, Boyd said. Gratiot and Clinton counties make up the state's 29th judicial circuit. Sun Staff Writer Rosemary Horvath contributed to this report.

[E-mail this Story to a Friend](#)

[Printer friendly version](#)

[About Us](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Photo Gallery](#) |
[Interested in a career at Journal Register Company, click here](#)

Morning Sun, a Morning Star Publishing Daily Publication
<http://www.themorningsun.com>

Please visit the [Contact Us](#) area for additional contact information.
© Copyright 2007 [Morning Star Publishing Company](#), an affiliate of [Journal Register Company](#)
All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without the written permission of the copyright holder.

Not all stories are guaranteed to appear online.
The Web edition contains a reasonable sampling of the print edition stories.
For the most complete news coverage, we invite you to [subscribe](#) to the print edition of the
paper.