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McConnell 'anxious' to start as new district judge

BY DARRELL CLEM • OBSERVER STAFF WRITER • NOVEMBER 5, 2008

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Long before the polls closed Tuesday evening, newly elected Westland 18th District Judge Mark McConnell already was mapping out his first day on the job in January.

McConnell, 40, said he will be handling sentencings and arraigning jail inmates arrested over the New Year's Eve holiday weekend.

McConnell was unopposed Tuesday in his bid to replace outgoing Judge C. Charles Bokos, who was forced out by a state law that prohibits district judges from seeking re-election once they turn 70.

McConnell accumulated 19,405 votes in a Westland election that had a turnout of 65.6 percent of the city's 62,544 registered voters.

McConnell, a married father of two, will don his black judicial robe after spending the last 13 years prosecuting cases as an attorney for Westland City Attorney Angelo Plakas' office. He has won accolades from Bokos and holdover 18th District Judge Sandra Ference Ciciirelli, who has said McConnell "will be a great addition to our 18th District Court."

On Tuesday, McConnell said he appreciates the voters who cast ballots for him in an election that didn't force him to campaign aggressively. He was chosen for a six-year term.

"I'm thrilled to have the support of the voters, which is the most important thing when you run for elected office," McConnell said.

McConnell earned his law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law, and he worked as a research attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals before becoming an assistant city attorney in Westland.

He pledged he will be fair-minded and impartial as he metes out justice along with Ciciirelli, in one of Wayne County's busiest district courts outside Detroit.

"I'm very anxious to start, and I'm going to hit the ground running on Jan. 2," McConnell said.

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New 18th District Court Judge Mark McConnell



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