

## What About Judge Leo Bowman? Get This Bad Judge Off The Bench

Judge Leo Bowman of the Sixth Circuit Court, Oakland County, Michigan, is a very bad judge and should resign. He is the worst political decision that former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm ever made. She was able to appoint Leo Bowman to a vacancy on the bench due to a lack of checks and balances in the Michigan Constitution concerning judicial appointments by the governor. [See Michigan Affirmative Action Failure: Judge Leo Bowman](#)

Substandard Judge Bowman was admonished twice by the Michigan State Court Administrative Office for threatening to jail potential jurors under a contempt of court order. He never should have performed in this manner in the first place, but anger got the better of him. It resulted in a reprimand citing him for improper judicial conduct. The second reprimand for the same type of infraction due to anger management problems indicates a serious problem for this judge, who does not know the law and is a slow learner. Innocent potential jurors suffered because of Judge Bowman's rage on the bench. Question 22 of the Oakland County Bar Association's 2012 judicial questionnaire that is posted online on their website asked the candidate if he was ever admonished by a state agency. Judge Bowman answered, "NO". This is a dishonest answer. Judge Bowman has some explaining to do about his actions in court, the two admonishments, and the misrepresentation concerning his answer to question 22

I appeared before Judge Bowman in his Family Law Court concerning child support. I observed him closely, and read and listened to his opinions concerning me. It should be noted that he ruled against me, and many may feel that I have a grudge against him. Perhaps, Judge Bowman or his supporters will call me a racist in order to negate my opinion of this very poor performing judge.

My Judgment of Divorce papers stipulated a typical child custody arrangement wherein I would have the minor children every other weekend. In order to reduce parental conflict the Judgment stated that I should pick the children up at their school at the end of the school day on Friday, have the children the entire weekend, and return them to their school on Monday morning. During the Court proceedings I informed Judge Bowman that I did not work during my child parenting time in order to be with my children. Prior to the Divorce I worked every Friday afternoon and every Saturday for at least four hours. Judge Bowman stated to me that he found that after the Divorce I did not work during my parenting time in order to reduce my child support payment.

Judge Bowman did not know the law or respect an important order concerning Social Security Payments that Judge Mary Ellen Brennan, my ex-wife, and I signed. As a matter of fact Judge Bowman angrily refused to look at the order that Judge Brennan signed after I asked him if I could approach the bench with it. He also had a copy of it in the file. His anger, unwillingness to exam the file when requested, and bias against me resulted in an order he issued that legally denied me proper credit for Social Security Payments. It required an additional \$1,500 in legal fees, aggravation, and conflict with my ex-wife before Judge Mary Ellen Brennan signed her same order a second time reversing the damage of the wicked act resulting from Judge Bowman's rampage.

Judge Bowman was incompetent and negligent when he inserted the wrong figure into the child support formula. I did not know of his error at the time he made it because Judge Bowman improperly withheld his child support formula calculations from me at the time he send me his

opinion four months late. I noticed the lack of the calculations because they were referenced in his opinion. I requested a copy. After I received it I informed Judge Bowman of his error, but he did nothing to correct it.

I felt that Judge Bowman's opinion in my case revealed a lack of knowing, following, and upholding the law concerning child support. He demonstrated shallow and arbitrary reasoning abilities, and an arrogant prejudice against me. My ex-wife and I have had a lot of conflict and anger towards each other, but she stated to me that Judge Bowman did not treat me properly, and I respect her for that.

Judge Bowman could perform as a wise stellar Judge, but he has not. I spoke to an African American prior to appearing before Judge Bowman. He stated that Judge Bowman would be a very good Judge because as the first male African American on the Oakland County Circuit Court he would go out of his way in order to make sure that he is an exemplary Judge. Unfortunately, Judge Bowman has been a Michigan Affirmative Action Failure. Why is Judge Bowman's performance so abysmal? Does he bring too much baggage to the bench? Does he lack the smarts to be a good Judge? Does he feel that he is entitled?

Unfortunately, although Judge Bowman in Nov., 2012, received the lowest number of votes amongst the incumbent Oakland County Circuit Court judges he was still able to win another term because of the poor campaigns of the two attorneys that ran against the slate of incumbent judges that included Bowman. It should be noted that a challenger has never defeated an incumbent Oakland County Circuit Court Judge, and in most elections there are no challengers. In the above cited election 662,842 individuals in Oakland County voted. Out of that total only 233,980 voted for Bowman, which is 35%. This is hardly an endorsement for Bowman, but due to Michigan's Constitution it enabled a mediocre judge like Bowman to remain on the bench.

### **Michigan's Constitution has to be amended in order to give Michigan citizens more control over their legal system:**

1. I have proposed the *Golden Legal Oversight Amendment*, an amendment to have an independently elected board police the Michigan legal system instead of the Michigan Supreme Court.
2. Retention Elections. Illinois' Constitution mandates that judges run against themselves in retention elections. After the judges' name on the Illinois ballot is the question, *Should this judge be retained for another term?* Voters should have the opportunity to vote up or down individually on each judge. I would like to have the opportunity to vote Judge Bowman off the Bench.
3. Arizona's Constitution has established a commission to gather and disseminate information concerning judges in order for voters to be informed about their judiciary. Many voters feel uncomfortable voting the judicial part of the ballot because they do not know anything about the judges who are running, and have nowhere to obtain information. Hopefully, judges like Bowman would perform better if they know that someone is looking over them, and they have to face the voters in retention elections.
4. Michigan's Constitution should be amended in order to reduce to power of the governor concerning judicial appointments. At the present time the governor can appoint any attorney with five years experience and that is it. There are no checks or balances to the governor's selection. Granholm appointed undistinguished Bowmen for political gain, and Oakland County is stuck with a bad judge. Engler's political appointments to the Michigan Supreme Court has resulted in the Michigan Supreme Court being regarded by some legal scholars as one of the worst state supreme courts in the nation. I propose that the Michigan constitution be amended to

mandate that the governor can only appoint from a list of names submitted by a non-partisan committee or that judicial appointments must be approved by the Michigan Senate.

Michigan needs a higher standard for Family Law Judges, and more citizen control of the Family Law Court in order to prevent future Judge Bowmans. Family Law Judge is the lowest position on the bench. The newest judge gets stuck with the job. It is the writ of initiation for many judges. Some people like Bowman are not suited for the job, perform poorly, and cause individuals and families to suffer. The legal system could care less because its first priority is to protect itself.

Mediocre Judge Leo Bowman should be the symbol to rally against concerning what needs to be corrected in the Michigan Legal System. Judge Bowman should not sit on the Bench. Citizens, empower yourselves to prevent future Judge Bowmans.

We can correct former Governor Granholm's poor political appointment by enacting the above changes that I have advocated in order to remove substandard Judge Leo Bowman the next time he has to run for re-election.

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