

**Jake Cunningham and Dan Christ Want to Be Judge
Judicial Candidates
for
The Oakland County Circuit Court, Michigan's Sixth 6th in 2018**

Jake Cunningham and Dan Christ will face off for an open seat on The Oakland County Circuit Court, Michigan's Sixth Circuit Court in the November, 2018, election. The winner will serve for six years in the Family Law Court. Five incumbent judges from the Sixth Circuit Court are running in the same election, but face no opposition. Therefore, there is no point in writing about them except to say that Judge Leo Bowman who is running for re-election is a sub-standard judge. Michigan should have [judicial retention elections](#) in order to weed out poor performing judges such as Judge Leo Bowman.

I have written well regarded articles concerning judicial candidates for The Oakland County Circuit Court for several election cycles. Judicial elections are non-partisan and the candidates do not express opinions on political issues.

These two above candidates have much different legal backgrounds and legal experiences, so lets gets into the facts.

Dan Christ graduated MSU undergrad in 1987 with a B.A. degree. He received his law degree in 1991 from the University of Detroit School of Law. He did an internship concerning international law in England. Mr. Christ has been in private legal practice since 1991 representing a diversified group of clients with varying legal issues including being the city attorney for a number of municipalities in Oakland County. On his [web site](#) he does not list any experience in family law. Dan Christ ran a nice campaign for an open seat on the Oakland County Circuit Court in 2012 and finished second. Click [here](#) for candidate's answers to Oakland County Bar Ass. Questionnaire.

Jake Cunningham graduated (B.A.) from Oakland University in 2007 and received his law degree in 2011 from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Following law school he briefly worked as a law clerk for a private law practice, was a volunteer staff attorney at the Oakland County Circuit Court, and taught at the Cooley Law School. From 2012 to 2014 he was a law clerk to a judge at the Oakland County Circuit Court. Since Dec., 2014, Mr. Cunningham has been a staff attorney to a Family Law Judge at the Oakland County Circuit Court. (information from [Linkedin](#)) Click [here](#) for candidate's answers to Oakland County Bar Ass. Questionnaire. Both of Jake Cunningham's parents are influential attorneys in Oakland County. His mother Judith was the administrator for the Oakland County Circuit Court prior to being appointed Oakland County Corporation Counsel in 1999.

Jake Cunningham and Dan Christ will appear together as well as Julie McDonald who is running uncontested for a new seat on the same court, Tuesday, October 2, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. Oakland County Commissioner's Auditorium, 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, MI 48341. Click [here](#) to see a video of the candidate forum if unable to attend in person.

I plan on attending the above forum or will watch the video. I will search the web and news media for other information and opinions about the candidates. I hope to render an opinion after the forum and before the election. Stay tuned.

Judge Lisa Gorcyca is an excellent example of the trials and tribulations of a family law judge. She put in her time, but showed little growth on the job. On June 24, 2015, her well publicized disgraceful actions in court were childish, immature, and dishonest besides making legal errors. She made misrepresentations about that day to the Judicial Tenure Commission. At the disciplinary hearing on May 31, 2016, the Master, Hon. Daniel P. Ryan, found Judge Gorcyca guilty as charged. I feel that Judge Lisa Gorcyca should be removed from the bench. Unfortunately, the Michigan Supreme Court

gave Judge Lisa Gorcyca a light slap on the wrist when her she appeared before them. Oakland County citizens most likely will never be able to have a meaningful voice concerning Judge Gorcyca because she will have no opposition if she runs for re-election in 2020. This is why we need [judicial retention elections](#)

Why should an excellent Divorce Court Judge matter to you? In Oakland County the sad fact is that 50% of marriages end in divorce, and the parties appear before the judge in Divorce Court. Divorce is big business for the legal system. The legal profession has used the acrimony and contentiousness of divorce to line its pockets during the process of divorce. The family suffers emotionally and financially. The Judge is part of the process. The family that was the victim of Judge Gorcyca's bad behavior is an excellent example. **Ask the candidates how they will reduce conflict and legal fees during the process of divorce. Ask the candidates if they will respect those who have to appear before them by running *motion day* by appointment instead of first come first serve starting at 8:30 A.M. Other highly esteemed professionals operate by appointment.**

The winner of this open seat will serve as a judge in the Family Law Division of the Oakland County Court. The new judge's baptism of fire is Divorce Court, which I feel is tough duty. It is the place for on the job judge training. The family law judge's job is mainly hearing angry emotional complaints all day long, and then rendering decisions on the complaints. This is not easy work. Unfortunately, I have first hand experience sitting in family law court rooms during long unnecessary waits. I witnessed what the judge goes through, and also what the judge and legal system put the unfortunate subjects of the divorce court through.

Ted Golden, M.D.