

**Lorie Savin and Victoria Valentine Want to Be Judge
Judicial Candidates
for
The Oakland County Circuit Court, Michigan's Sixth 6th in 2016**

Lorie Savin and Victoria Valentine will run for the only open seat up for election on The Oakland County Circuit Court, Michigan's Sixth Circuit Court in November, 2016. The winner will serve for six years in the Family Law Court taking over the seat of retiring Judge Joan Young who is a Family Law Court judge. Rae LeeChabot, Hala Jarbou, Cheryl A. Matthews, and Daniel Patrick O'Brien are incumbent judges from the Sixth Circuit Court who face no opposition in the same election. Therefore, there is no point in writing about them except to say that Michigan should have [retention elections](#).

I have written well regarded opinions concerning judicial candidates for The Oakland County Circuit Court for several election cycles. [This year I am running to be the Michigan House Representative for District 45.](#)

Both women are from the area and went to undergrad and law school in Michigan. Ms. Savin has devoted her 20 year legal career to family law. The last 13 years she has worked as a friend of the court referee, and currently serves under Judge Jeffery S. Matis. Ms. Valentine initially worked in family law for about 5 years, and for the last 12 years has specialized in business law, contracts, and commercial litigation. Both judicial candidates appear to be of equal legal caliber with different career paths. Would a friend of the court referee or a successful private practice attorney be the better judge?

Lorie Savin the best candidate

At the debate on Sept. 20, 2016, between the two candidates I felt that Lorie Savin proved to be the better candidate to serve on the Oakland County Family Law Court. She was more forceful and precise in answering the questions. I felt that she would have more presence when speaking in court. Ms. Savin knows family law and is very experienced in that area of the law. Lorie Savin stated that if she won she would only serve on the Family Law Court for the rest of her judicial career. This would negate the opinion of some that Victoria Valentine would make the better judge six years into the future when the winner of this judicial election could move to a different court position. Lorie Savin is the best candidate for the current open seat on the Oakland County Court, which is in the Family Law Division.

[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.

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. Ask the candidates how they will reduce conflict and legal fees during the process of divorce. The best interest of the family should come first.

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.

Lorie Savin appears better equipped than Ms. Valentine, and has the disposition to make an excellent family law judge.

I am voting for Lorie Savin.

Ted Golden, M.D.