

News

Macomb County Circuit Court



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Macomb County Circuit Court Launches First Business Docket in Michigan

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. — On Tuesday, November 1, 2011, Macomb County Circuit Court launched the first Specialized Business Docket in Michigan. Chief Judge Mark Switalski appointed Judge John C. Foster to the business docket which is specifically geared toward the efficient and timely management of complex commercial cases. Through the use of innovative case management, available technology and a comprehensive knowledge of business law, Judge Foster will be able to expertly preside over cases that could otherwise be cumbersome if left on the general civil docket.

“Macomb County’s Specialized Business Docket is an innovative program that will not only be welcomed by the business community, but will also improve the overall efficiency of the court system,” stated Attorney Diane Akers. Ms. Akers Co-Chaired the State Bar of Michigan’s Judicial Crossroads Task Force Business Impact Committee and has been advocating the establishment of a business court in Michigan for over ten years. She further stated, “Setting an example for what can be achieved through commitment and ingenuity, Macomb County’s Specialized Business Docket uses existing resources and requires no additional funding.”

Under the pilot, certain categories of cases including business torts, antitrust law, and business-to-business disputes, are mandated for assignment to the business docket. For additional categories such as commercial insurance claims, collection of professional fees and employment law matters, assignment to the business docket is optional. A complete description of the categories, forms and instructions can be found on the 16th Circuit Court’s website at <http://www.macombcounty.mi.gov/circuit-court/sbd.htm>.

“I would like to thank Judge Foster and members of the legal community, including Ms. Akers from Bodman and Attorneys Brian Wassom and Andrew Doctoroff from Honigman Miller, for their efforts in getting the Macomb Business Docket operational. This is a strategic use of diminishing resources and a tremendous asset for Macomb County businesses,” stated Chief Judge Switalski. The Specialized Business Docket has the full support of County Executive Mark Hackel who agrees with Switalski that these types of thoughtful innovations lead to an even more competitive Michigan.

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