

Judge vs. Public Advocate

Deciding whether to run for judge this year was one of the toughest decisions I've ever made. Many, many good people urged me to run. My supporters gathered 4,500 signatures in a scant three weeks - - 1,500 on each of the three open seats for which I filed, although the maximum number of signatures one can file is only 1,000. Ultimately, however, I withdrew from all three races and feel an explanation is needed.

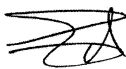
But first, I want to acknowledge and thank the thousands of voters who signed my petitions. The strong enthusiasm from the public was very heartwarming. Many were so excited about having an attorney like me as judge - people from all walks of life - that it forced me to reflect on what is gained, and lost, in becoming your next judge.

I have devoted my entire life to the cause of social justice on the local level, where my presence could be felt and an impact made. I viewed my schooling as a privilege that I should share with those who are less fortunate. I never looked at my law degree as a ticket for an easy ride in life. If I had, and went along to get along like most successful lawyers, I would be retired and spending my days on a sunny beach in Jamaica.

So I came to realize I could serve the greater good, and enjoy myself more, without the restraints of a judicial robe. My community activism, inspired by the idealism of the 60's, began well before I obtained my education and became an attorney. Indeed, there were many people who urged me to stay the course. To stand up for the voiceless and powerless, like Donna Yost. To speak up publicly - - in paid ads, if need be - - to get the truth in front of the good people of this community. Your continued support of my law practice allows me to undertake the expense I incur in championing the cause of local justice.

As judge, my community service would be limited to only those who came into my courtroom. But so much more can be accomplished for many more people as an activist lawyer.. So it will be no easy coast into retirement through a judgeship for me.

Hereafter, then, and for the rest of my life, I want to be Bay County's Public Advocate. There's a lot we can accomplish if we all pull together. Now let's do it! We'll begin with the "FORUM FOR JUSTICE: Bay County Decides Together" on Sunday, July 11. Art Dore generously donated a facility for the event, and Bay Justice Associates, P.C. will pay all related expenses. Be a part of local history in the making and plan to attend.



Edward M. Czuprynski
Public Advocate
and Independent Attorney

*A Public Service Message from:
Bay Justice Associates, P.C.*

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