

STATE OF MICHIGAN 63rd DISTRICT COURT KENT COUNTY



Hon. Sara J. Smolenski
District Judge

May 1, 2024

Alan G. Vanderberg
Kent County Administrator/Controller
Kent County Administration Building
300 Monroe Avenue, N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

RE: Resignation Letter

Dear Al:

This is to inform you of my decision to retire. The timing seems to be right, considering the third judge approval that begins January of 2025. I was so appreciative the new third judge position was approved. It will help a great deal to continue to ensure justice is served timely to the citizens of Kent County.

I have proudly served as a 63rd District Court Judge for 34 years. Incidentally, there has been a Smolenski on the Michigan District Court bench since its inception in 1968; that's 56 years.

Both my dad, J. Robert, and my brother, Michael, served proudly at the 61st District Court, and I have served longer than both of them at the 63rd District Court.

I have notified the Governor of my decision to retire. I am planning to retire July 15th, 2024. I believe this will give Governor Whitmer time to name my successor.

Chief Judge Jeffrey O'Hara has been a great bench mate, and I really want a smooth transition for the entire 63rd District Court.

I can't thank the County of Kent enough for the great opportunity to serve as Judge of the 63rd District Court for 34 years. Thank you for your leadership, and all you do for the People of Kent County.

Peace,

Sara J. Smolenski
District Judge

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara J. Smolenski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.