

It is rare that I write letters of support for a candidate. However, in the case of David Glancy's candidacy for the position of Probate Judge of Lake County, I am strongly recommending him for the position.

My familiarity with David began with a case that had a great deal of publicity and consequence in 2014. I was appointed by then Judge Wadel of Mason County to assist in the defense of an individual charged with murder. I, along with my investigator, Gene Debbaudt, former Supervising Special Agent of the FBI for most of Western Michigan, worked with David for several months. As it turned out, both Gene and I were extremely impressed with David's work as an attorney and as a human being.

In a case, where the defendant had written a letter fully admitting to the critical facts, which was in the hands of the police and prosecutor, David mounted a principled and highly effective defense on behalf of his client. His organization of the file was superior in every respect; his pre-trial and trial actions were thoughtful and so effective that a jury took 3 days to come to a compromised verdict. His work in that case alone would have received my recommendation for the Probate Judge position.

However, what followed cemented my positive opinion of David. I asked him to assist me in my own firm's work. He handled very complex matters with aplomb and efficiency. We are still benefitting from his work on a particularly difficult case where we convinced the Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney of our client's actual innocence in a conviction for a double homicide in Detroit.

Competence as an attorney alone does not assure that a person would be a good judge. That would depend on the character of that attorney. Over the years that I have known him, he has shown an understanding of, and empathy with, people. I have practiced law for 50 years, with many cases in Probate courts around the state, as well as Circuit and District courts. I know good judges from less than so ones. David Glancy is in the top tier of attorneys whom I would endorse as a candidate. It is for these reasons I support David Glancy for the position of Lake County Probate Judge.

**John Smietanka**  
**Attorney at Law**