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Judge chosen in perjury trial of cops, judge and prosecutor in drug case

BY JOE SWICKARD
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Presiding Judge Timothy Kenny of the Wayne County Circuit Court will oversee the trial of former colleague and retired judge Mary Waterstone, a former prosecutor, and two Inkster police officers in a case alleging perjury in a major cocaine trial.

Kenny was assigned the case this morning by blind draw as Waterstone, Karen Plants, Robert McArthur and Scott Rechtzigel were arraigned this morning before Judge Margie Braxton. Waterstone's lawyer, Gerald Evelyn and Assistant Attorney General William Rollstin said they were pleased with the case going to Kenny.

"That's fine, absolutely," Rollstin said.

"Obviously, he's a very fair judge," Evelyn said. "Perhaps there might be an issue of a judge who also served with Waterstone, but I see no reason to excuse him."

The case against the four former law enforcement officials is built on **false testimony and police reports designed to conceal the real role the key witness** in a 47-kilo cocaine case. The star witness, **Chad Povish, was also a secret paid police informant** who hoped to get at least 100,000 for his work.

During the trial, Waterstone agreed to hide Povish's identity and approve the perjury because she said she feared he might be killed. After the perjury and alleged misconduct came to light, Waterstone said she should have consulted Kenny before making a decision about the false testimony.

At the end of the hearing, Judge Braxton said, "I wish all of you well."

Rollstin said there were no plea offers yet, and Evelyn said he would be filing to dismiss the charges against Waterstone. The next court appearance is Nov. 8.

Contact **JOE SWICKARD**: jswickard@freepress.com.

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