

Judge candidate stood out from the rest

When Justice Fred Gallina announced his plans to retire last year, the Town Board and I knew that we needed to appoint someone who possessed the same commitment and expertise that Fred provided to Town Court.

Fred's commitment to our court system was both reputable and admirable. Fred served 23 dedicated years to the town as justice, and I wish him all the best as he moves on from this position. He certainly left a tough act to follow.

In December, the Town Board put out a call for resumes to fill this position. We were overwhelmed by the number and the quality of the applications we received. Out of the resumes, we interviewed nearly a dozen candidates – all of whom Pittsford would be proud to call one of their justices. However, one candidate stood out above the rest.

The definition of the term justice is “the quality of being just or fair” or “the principle of moral rightness”. The Town Board is very proud to have found a candidate that fulfills these definitions. I am very pleased to announce that on March 1, 2011, Town Board approved William A. Smith, Jr. to fill Justice Gallina's seat as Town Justice. He was sworn into office on March 3 by Judge Bernacki.

Justice Smith is well known in the Pittsford community. As a graduate of Yale University and the University of Virginia Law School, he has been practicing law for 26 years in both private practice and as an in-house counsel. He is known for his complete command of the law and his passion to advocate for his clients. Bill also has the demeanor to be a good judge. His ability to articulate the issues along with his innate sense of people and situations will allow him to be the type of judge that Pittsford has long been accustomed to.

Bill has also compiled a strong record of service to the Town of Pittsford, giving him a unique understanding of our community, our families, and our values. He served as a Town Councilman in 1996 and was then elected to the Monroe County Legislature from 1996-2007 where he served as majority leader for 5 years.

Judge Smith will serve through the remainder of Justice Gallina's term which ends in December of 2011. The appointed Town Justice will then be required to be on the ballot this November in order to continue serving beyond 2011.

I ask that you join me and the Town Board in welcoming Bill Smith as he joins Justice Bernacki at the Pittsford Court. As always, feel free to reach out to me directly at bcarpenter@townofpittsford.org with any questions.