

# Hopefuls contend for two spots on District Court bench

By Emilie Astell  
Telegram & Gazette Staff

**WORCESTER**—Two openings on the District Court bench have attracted a slew of applicants.

Two dozen hopefuls have applied for a bench vacancy and a half-dozen for a presiding judge opening here.

Decisions on these closely watched appointments are expected in about a month.

Kathleen O'Loughlin, executive director of the Judicial Nominating Council, said interviews are under way for those who applied for the vacancy created when presiding District Judge William J. Luby retired earlier this year. Two dozen lawyers — mostly from Central Massachusetts — have applied for the post, including Worcester defense lawyer Louis P. Aloise.

Gov. William F. Weld makes the appointment.

## FIELD OF APPLICANTS

The field of applicants is first interviewed by a Central Regional Committee made up mostly of lawyers from Central Massachusetts. Interviews are conducted by the committee and a field of five or six finalists is picked. The list of finalists is sent to the executive committee of the Judicial Nominating Council, which sends the list to the governor.

Worcester lawyer W. Theodore Harris, a member of the regional committee, said all the candidates are highly qualified, experienced lawyers who understand the importance of private practice and resolving things as quickly as possible.

"This is a rather tough decision to weed some out," Harris said. "Any one of them would make a good judge."

## ONE MORE ROUND

The nine-member committee has one more round of interviews next week, then a list of finalists will be sent to the executive committee. From there it goes to Weld's office where interviews are conducted by legal counsel before the governor

makes an appointment.

The salary of trial court judges is \$95,710. O'Loughlin declined to provide a list of applicants, saying their identities are to be kept confidential.

A presiding judge will be chosen from those judges already on the bench. Confirmed candidates are District Court Judges Elliot L. Zide, Patrick A. Fox, Sarkis Teshoian, John J. Curran Jr., Thomas F. Sullivan Jr. and Martha A. Brennan.

*Trial Court Judges*

Court administrator Jerome S. Berg said District Court Chief Justice Samuel E. Zoll has visited the courts where all the applicants now serve. Zoll interviewed a variety of people who work at the courthouses and also met with each candidate as

part of the appointment process.

Zoll will decide who gets the job for a five-year term with the approval of Judge John J. Irwin Jr., justice for the trial court's administration and management.

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