

CWI held its Meet and Greet the Candidates for Probate Judge, the Honorable Judge Rhonda B. Burrows and Pamela A. Beckman, on Saturday, October 17 at Carrizozo Town Hall.

Carrizozo Works, Inc. hosted several similar events for the community to meet the candidates in contested elections over the years. We've done both face-to-face meetings and on-line surveys. The board felt it important this year to do the former so people in the area have the chance to meet the candidates in person, away from electioneering and campaign events in a casual setting. Each event featured one candidate. They did not appear together.

CWI is a not-for-profit. As such, we cannot endorse or oppose any candidate. The same questions from CWI were asked of both candidates in each race for fairness. They came from the board and AI. We believe they cover a wide range of topics affecting our area. We believe they were worded so as not to favor an incumbent or someone new to the political process. Each candidate had three minutes to answer. The audience had the chance to ask their own questions. Those questions and answers are not included below, since they were unique to a candidate and answers could not be compared. Additional time was made for constituents to talk to the candidate after the question and answer period as well.

As to the questions themselves, they were not provided beforehand, and were not made public before the meet and greet. The questions concerned local issues, and did not address state or national affairs.

Printed copies are available at the Rec Center in Carrizozo during Nourishing Nation business hours and in the lobby of Carrizozo Town Hall as well as other public areas in Carrizozo.

Here are the CWI questions:

In your own words, please explain the responsibilities of the Probate Judge, the types of matters the office handles, and the matters that fall outside its authority.

Judge Burrows: So in New Mexico, there's two paths to probate. There is the formal path through District Court, or there's the informal path through the county probate court, for which I currently serve as the judge. The primary duties of that office are to accept and review applications and the associated paperwork for individuals to be appointed to administer estates for people that have passed. And that is a standardized process, and there are standardized forms for both people who have wills and people who don't have wills. Now, because it's an informal court, it's a court of limited jurisdiction, the county probate judge does not conduct hearings or meet necessarily to mediate issues with an estate. What the county probate judge does is make sure that the person applying to be the personal representative has the proper authority to do so. And all of that is set into statute as to how they gain that proper authority. So typically, and because it is an informal court, it's what is termed a court of the people, the people's court, which is similar to magistrate court. Again, courts of limited jurisdiction. So, as a county probate judge, you have the authority to deal with non-contested matters. So if someone files to be a personal representative or to administer an estate and later on a controversy arises, then we typically transfer those cases to District Court. So it is a wonderful asset to the community because the majority of clients that we deal with or applicants are self-represented, pro se, representing clients. In other words, they don't necessarily need an attorney. And it saves them that expense, especially when you have a small estate and it's uncontested. It's a process for people to gain the authority that they need to continue to administer an estate. And I'm sorry, I forgot the second part of your question.

Matters that fall outside of its authority?

So anything that's contested or as a judge, if I feel there is concern about an application or that I have questions about if that person really has the authority to administer a state, then those are the things that we pass on to district court.

Ms. Beckman: Probate judge handles matters in the probate court that are uncontested probates: Probate of somebody's will, or if they die without a will, the probate of their estate. If there's no argument from anyone, if there's no contest to

anything within the transfer of the property pursuant to the will or pursuant to the state law, it goes through probate court. It's cheaper than District Court, but if there's any contest to the will, it goes up to District Court. So the probate judge basically is allowed to talk with the personal representative and family members, not allowed to give any legal advice, but allowed to talk with the family members, which is much different than a District Court judge can do. Probate court is much more informal than District Court is. The probate court is not allowed to give legal advice, but they can talk to them. They can go over the forms with them and let them know what everybody's looking for or to answer their questions, if they're not asking legal questions. In a probate of a case, there's a personal representative appointed by the will or chosen by the family members, if there is no will. The personal representative runs the probate of the estate, fills out all the forms, gives appropriate notice to all the parties that are heirs or receive under the will or anyone who's interested. They post a notice, publish a notice in the newspaper to creditors so the creditors know that someone has passed away. And the probate court monitors these steps for the people. They provide the forms. There's an entire packet of forms for wills and no wills. The packet includes the statutes, which is not necessarily the easiest thing to understand, but the probate court monitors them as they go along. The probate judge approves the forms to make sure the forms are accurate before they get filed with the court and makes sure the proper process is followed all the way to the end. If at any point during that time there is a contest, somebody claims the will isn't valid or claims that's not the person who was supposed to receive and it can't be resolved by the parties, then at that point in time everything stops and it goes up to District Court and District Court handles all the resolution of any issues that are in contest in the probate itself.

Please walk us through the Probate Judge's role in an informal, uncontested probate proceeding, including the possible appointment of a personal representative and the limits of the judge's involvement and the role of court clerks in assisting people.

Judge Burrows: So the process begins when someone passes away and the family is trying to typically transfer real property. That's the most common motivation to file a probate application. And in order to do that, we have, as I mentioned, standardized forms that have been approved by the Supreme Court, and those forms require them to submit certain information that I would review then to see if

that person is, as I mentioned, the proper person to serve as the administrator of the estate. And that terminology comes under who has the highest priority to serve. So typically if you have a will, you name in your will who you want to serve. But many, many people die without wills. And so then it becomes a matter of following the statute to determine who has the priority to serve as a personal representative or administrator of that estate. Some of the factors that play into that is, are you the surviving spouse? That is typically the person with the highest priority. But if you don't have a surviving spouse and there's multiple children, who has a priority to serve then? Well, it may not be clear because there's not a will, but if there's an agreement among the children and they all consent to a particular person serving, then that person has the right to apply and they provide consents from the others to serve. So all that encapsulates into a non-contested environment. And so it's my duty to review that, to review the death certificate, to ascertain that, first of all, they're filing in the right place. So in order to file a probate in Lincoln County, typically you live in Lincoln County, but there are some legal exceptions to that. If a probate hasn't been filed anywhere else, but you own property in New Mexico, particularly in Lincoln County, then those people can apply. So there's exceptions to what would be considered the standard process to probate. But primarily I serve in an administrative role to determine that the proper person is applied, that they have the proper consents if somebody else has equal priority, and that they have provided sufficient information about the individual to determine if this is the proper county for them to file and if this is the proper venue. For instance, if you've lived in Lincoln County your whole life, but you go to live with your daughter in the last year of your life, this may still be considered your principal residence in the principal county that you need to apply in. So there's those subtleties in the law, and that's where the county probate judge comes in to determine that that's all been addressed properly. And the clerk staff serves in a supporting role. They help people by providing the proper forms, which are provided.

Ms. Beckman: Similar to what I just answered, but I can fill it in a little bit. The probate judge is only a part-time position. I know that this county has about 106 cases, probably a little bit more than that now, that have been filed so far this year, which is an increase from past years, which is a good thing. But the probate judge is not required to be here every day. And so most likely the probate judge isn't here every day. I know that the court clerk determines the hours of the probate court, but

I believe that the clerk is in the clerk's office always. The probate court is not in the District Court building, not in the courthouse, it's in the county clerk's office, which is much different again. There's no courtroom, there's no black robes, there's no hearings that take place, because it's much more informal, it's more the people's court kind of thing than anything else. But the clerk, I think, is there much more often than probably the judges. And so the clerk would be maybe the front line that the person contacts first, that the family members contact first. I don't think it's required that the probate judge ever speak to anyone, but I think it's allowed that the probate judge speaks with people. Some judges that I've talked to don't ever talk to the individuals. But it would be my choice to speak with the individuals because that's my experience as an attorney, that's what I do. I speak with clients and set them at ease and listen to what they are saying and make them more comfortable with the process. That's always been my goal is to make people more comfortable with the process. So I think every judge is different. My intent would be to be there a couple days a week and to be able to answer questions to the public when they come in, to make sure that on the website they know I'm going to be there. The clerk is, as I said, the front line which means the clerk is the one who's probably going to be reviewing the documents before they ever come to the judge to make sure that everything is there. The judge is the final word on it. but the clerk's job is equally important to the judge's position, because they are the ones that the people see first, and they are the ones who first look at the forms and make sure that the forms are completed properly, and they're the ones who will take it to the judge and say I'm not sure this is right, or this is where the conflict is, it's going to have to go up, or this is an issue we need to look at. So the clerk is a very important part of the process and has to work really closely with the probate judge themselves. But the probate judge has a lot of leeway, much more leeway than the District Court judge has, in how to handle the probate, as it proceeds through the court.

How would you determine whether the matter remains within the Probate Court's authority or needs to be addressed through a formal proceeding in District Court?

Judge Burrows: Well, again, if there's any element of disagreement. Sometimes we open a probate, the paperwork is in order, the consents are proper, but after you open the probate, you receive a letter or information from another heir that they're not satisfied with the way the state is proceeding. And any type of hint or concern about controversy is a trigger for us to send it up to District Court.

Ms. Beckman: Well, again, it would more than likely first come to the clerk. More than likely, the clerk would be the first person to talk to the individuals and get the first understanding of what the family dynamic is. Is there a will? Is there a widow? Who are the family members? Have choices been made in terms that there isn't a will? Has the family made choices in terms of who would be the person representative? Those issues would be issues that would be resolved at the first meeting that the family member would have with either the clerk or the judge. And that's the first sign that there's a problem, a potential problem. But that can happen at any point in time down the road. So the problems would come in by conversation with the family members or conversation with the clerk who's had the conversations with the family members. As the papers are being filled out, if they can't say who the heirs are, for instance, that's not an issue that's going to take it out of probate court. It's an issue you have to handle. But if the heirs are named as these are the people, and someone comes in and says: "Wait, I'm an heir also, and half the family's going, no, you're not. You're not related to this, and you are not involved in this" and the person is insisting that they are, that's a conflict. That's going to go up to District Court. If the heir says: "This will says that dad's gun collection is going to my brother, but I know he left it to me, and I'm not going to stand still for this. This is mine," that's probably going to go up to District Court. Anytime there's an issue. And that issue can come up at any point in time, and it can come up in a variety of ways. But I think that's the reason that there's more conversations allowed in probate court than in District Court; because if you can work through the problems, then you can do this as an uncontested probate, and you can do it in probate court more informally. And it gives the family more, I think, more of a feeling of understanding of the process, and trust in the process, and comfort that it was done properly; the way their loved one would have wanted.

In eight states, including New Mexico, the election of judges is partisan—that is, party affiliation is listed on the ballot. Do you think this is relevant to your position and if so why?

Judge Burrows: Well, it's relevant to the position because that's the way you get elected to the position. Once you are elected, of course, you're in a nonpartisan role. And typically, particularly, the probate judge, is not involved and is not affected by the political climate. Probate judges, as all judges, fall under the Administrative Office of the Court's Judicial Code of Conduct. And that is very specific about what political activities you can and cannot engage in, and it's limited by the judicial code of conduct.

Ms. Beckman: I don't think it is, and I didn't realize it was only eight states. That's interesting. Maybe that's a good sign for us. I don't think and have never thought that a judicial position should be partisan. Judges are held to a very high standard of fairness and non-biased objectivity. The party affiliation is inconsequential. There's never a reason for party affiliation to make any difference at all in who is the judge and how a judge is handling a case because the judge is applying the law. And the law is the law. It's clearly written out. It's spelled out in the books and the statutes. There's always room for interpretation, but that interpretation should never be based on party affiliation, and certainly not in a probate case. I have been an attorney for 43 years. I'm a Democrat. This is a very Republican county. In 43 years, I don't know that I've ever known the party affiliation of the other side, usually not even the other attorney. Someone told me recently that they didn't realize Gary Mitchell was a Democrat, and I did have to laugh at that because Gary Mitchell was a Democrat. But generally speaking, I would never know the party affiliation of the opposing party. I shouldn't know the political affiliation of the judge, because it shouldn't matter. It doesn't make any difference in how you handle the case because you handle the case pursuant to the law. But some people do feel that way, and I guess they think there's some difference being done in terms of how a case is handled. I've never seen it. I've never been aware of it. And it should never matter.

Many residents may be grieving, unfamiliar with legal terminology, or unable to afford an attorney. How would you help them understand procedural requirements while remaining empathetic and objective in order to avoid giving one party an unfair advantage in such an emotionally-charged environment?

Judge Burrows: Well again, as a probate judge, you have to be very careful. Number one, we do not give legal advice. That is outside our purview. But we can discuss the process with people, and that's where we can interact with the community and say: "I can't address your particular situation, but I can tell you how this process works, and I can help walk you through the process." The determination and the outcome is different for every case. And again, the majority of our clients are pro se, or self-represented litigants.

Ms. Beckman: First of all, there should never be a giving one party unfair advantage in this job because there are not two sides. That's kind of the cardinal rule of probate court. There's not two sides. If there's two sides, there's a contest. So in probate court, there's not going to be two sides and there's not going to be showing somebody favoritism. There may be people who are concerned that something is not being done properly and they may come in and talk to the judge about something not being done properly or their concerns about it. And just the same as the personal representative may be coming in or other family members may be coming in. And I would expect actually that all of them would. And I would encourage all of them to. I think that that's probably my strongest point. My strongest talent coming into this position is that I've had 43 years of dealing with people who are handling the most difficult things in their lives. We have, I don't even know how many cases I've handled, but every single case that I've handled has been that person's only case, and the most important thing in their lives. And I've always kept that in mind, understanding that I may have five trials, five hearings that day, but that person's hearing is the only one they have and my attention needs to be on them, and my focus needs to be on them, and I need to understand what they're going through. I've had a lot of clients tell me that I have set them at ease with my conversation with them and my explaining to them what the process is and what's required in the process and what their options are. It's going to be a little difficult for me in this, not difficult, just a little bit different, to transition into a position where I'm not the attorney who's telling them what to do,

because I've done that for so many years, that I'm not allowed to do that as a probate judge. And that's going to be a little transition that I'm going to have to make. But I have spent 43 years taking to people who are grieving over a divorce, over a loss of a child in a child custody case, over the death of a loved one. And I have, I believe, from what I've been told by them, in many cases, that I have the ability to be very empathetic to them while still maintaining the focus and keeping them on track and explaining the process to them. When I decided to become a lawyer, my reason for it was that I wanted to be able to explain to people something they would not have the means to understand otherwise. Not everyone goes to school to study law. Not everyone understands the statutes. They're hard to read sometimes. And my purpose in becoming an attorney was to help people understand something they needed to understand for something happening in their lives that they might not understand fully and might not get the result that they want or are entitled to.

If there is a point when you feel that a party might need an attorney, how would you re-direct the narrative to that end, and do you feel that your job requires you to guide them to possible state financial assistance opportunities?

Judge Burrows: So when people initially contact us, either myself or the staff, if they present a very complex scenario, or they state up front that there is a problem or an issue that we believe will push the case to District Court regardless, then typically we do advise them to get an attorney. If they have come in and say they've been appointed and they come back to the office and they say, well, How do I do this? How do I transfer? What do I do here? And again, there we tell them, we're not allowed to give you legal advice. If you need help, perhaps you should contact an attorney or seek advice. There are several organizations in the state of New Mexico. There's LREP, which is legal advice for over 50. There's a number of legal aid resources for people, although I don't think New Mexico has a real robust resource for people that are representing themselves, but there are some out there, and we do provide that information. It's on our website, and we provide it to them all.

Ms. Beckman: I don't know why the job would require that because people can handle it, self-represent it, and it's a \$30 fine and fees. You would hope that they

could afford it. The publication is expensive. That may be a reason why, but if it was brought to my attention that they needed financial assistance in some way, form or fashion, I would do what I could to help them get the help they need. The job of an attorney is not simply to handle one thing. And the job of the probate judge is, again, not just to handle; these are the forms I'm going to sign, I'm going to read these forms and sign them if they look good, and I'm done. That's not this job. This job is, like I said, it's the people's court. This is the judicial system's opportunity, even though this is through the county and not the state, to meet face-to-face with someone who needs the help that they can provide and understand the process that they are dealing with. And to not look at the total picture of what they're dealing with in their lives and help them if there's a way you can, I think is a mistake. I think that that's not helping people. And our job really is ultimately to help people, whether you're the judge, or the attorney, or the clerk, or anyone else in the system that knows where services are. I think that it's incumbent on any of us to do that for anyone, not just a judge or just an attorney. So, I would hope that I would be able to help people in other ways than just walking them through the probate of the estate.

The Probate Judge position is part-time. How would you organize your time and responsibilities if you are employed elsewhere to ensure that cases are handled accurately and without unnecessary delay?

Judge Burrows: The primary thing is, in my opinion, and what I've done since I've been the probate judge, is just to establish a routine. So, for instance, I'm here every Wednesday. And by establishing that routine and setting office hours, then people know when you're going to be available. Attorneys and other people that submit probates, we get a lot of probates from out of state, they know that there's going to be somebody reviewing those at least once a week. I mean the only exception might be if I took a week off, but typically I'm here every Wednesday, and so that keeps the workflow moving through and probate judges are educated and tasked with the idea of addressing cases in a timely manner and we do that because we know that a lot of things are pending. You know, there may be property sales or other things that are pending on that. So the most important thing, I think, is to establish and maintain regular office hours.

Ms. Beckman: The statute reads that the county clerk determines the hours of the probate court. I don't really know whether the county clerk does that or leaves that up to the probate judge. I don't have any idea, but we'll find out if I get the job. My intent would be to post on the website, these are the days of the week I will be in the office. I will be in court on these days so that people know if they want to talk to me, that's when I'm going to be there. Those are the days I'll be there. It does allow me to work otherwise, and I intend that I will probably work otherwise in the legal field, unrelated to probate court cases, and I'll work around those hours, because my focus and my priority is probate court and my priority is to make sure people know when I'm going to be there, if they need to see me and if they need help. If they don't need to see me, then they can talk with the clerk and they can take care of things from the clerk. They can come in whenever they want to. But if they need to see me, I want them to know these are the hours and these are the days that I will be in.

What would you do if a personal relationship, potential conflict of interest, or appearance of favoritism could affect public confidence in your handling of a matter?

Judge Burrows: Well, again, that's easy. As an informal court and as a probate judge, we have an automatic default to go to District Court. So if someone submitted a probate for which I might have a personal interest or a personal connection that is inappropriate to proceed, then I just send it up to District Court. And we have the authority. We don't necessarily have to tell people to initially file in District Court. A lot of times something arises after they file, but we have a process whereby we can transfer that case to District Court. And that works out for people often because then they don't have to pay an additional filing fee. We pay a filing fee of \$30. District Court, it costs them about \$120. So while they may initially file with us, if something comes up that might enter, you know, a conflict of interest or for whatever controversy, then by transferring up to District Court, it gets automatically entered into their system and they don't have to refile.

Ms. Beckman: I would not handle the matter. I think the procedure is that you advise District Court that there is a potential conflict and District Court assigns another judge from another county to handle that particular case. So, anytime

there's any appearance of a conflict or impropriety or any complaint at all, not just a complaint—if I see it, if I know someone's coming in that I know, I will question whether my knowledge of this person is sufficient that it would cause a conflict for me to handle that case. And if I felt it did, or if someone else told me they felt that it was a conflict, then I will take it to the proper procedure to have it moved to another place.

There are those of us whose households had the best-selling book, “How to Prevent Probate,” on permanent display near the kitchen table in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and who viewed probate as the ultimate evil. Do you believe there is still a stigma, and is there anything you can do or change on the local level, or would want the legislature to address to dispel this myth if it exists?

Judge Burrows: Well, as I mentioned, in New Mexico, Chapter 45 of New Mexico State Statutes is a uniform probate code. And by adopting that, the state of New Mexico has these two paths, the informal and the formal path. So we're very fortunate in our state. And we do educate people about that. I tell people all the time, because they will call and they'll be upset someone has died suddenly and they don't have a will and, oh my gosh, what are we going to do? And I tell them. You don't have to be worried about probate. Probate is not a difficult process. Probate only becomes difficult if there is controversy. And that's why it is important to have a will, because that helps avoid controversy. But probate is not difficult in and of itself, and I talk to groups about that and speak on it as often as I can. In other states, probate is still complex. California and some other states, it is a more formal process, and it's more complex. So it's hard to totally dispel that feeling when it varies from state to state. But in New Mexico, we have this two-part process and it's great. And that's why I'm a real advocate for retaining county probate judges because it is a court of the people that is easily accessible to people who are not comfortable dealing with, or don't have the means to engage an attorney or otherwise deal with District Court.

Ms. Beckman: Oh, I think it definitely exists. And I don't know that the legislature really could do much of anything at all. I think it's more a matter of education for people. First of all, people believe that probate is very expensive, which it is, because if you have to hire an attorney, it's going to be expensive. There are ways

that you can organize your assets to keep it out of probate court or to keep it to a minimum. And to keep it out of probate in general, not just probate court, but District Court as well, keep it out of probate. And there are ways to do that, and that book probably tells people, and there are a number of books that tell people, accountants tell people how to keep their assets out of probate and keep their families out of probate if they pass away. Everybody has ideas on how it's done and, most of the time, they're pretty close to right. But the legislature, I don't really think, can do much of anything to it. In some states, some people have been surprised when I've told this, that the state takes a percentage of your assets. I practiced in Michigan for a few years and I was shocked because Michigan took a percentage of your assets in the probate court. New Mexico does not. So for the people who believe that that's an expense of their probate, they need to know that. There is no tax, basically, on the probate of your estate. The expense comes in primarily with the attorney, and the issue with wanting to stay out of probate is not only the attorney, but the time that it takes before your family members can actually disperse your property. And it does take time. It takes a good six months to go through probate. You have to publish it, if you have any creditors at all. You have to publish in the paper, and it has to be published for three consecutive weeks. And after the first, I think, publication, you cannot close the probate for four months. So it will take that length of time. So it's a lengthy procedure, lengthy in relative terms. It can be much longer than that if there's a contest to any part of it. But I think that's what causes people to not want to put property through probate. There are so many ways to keep out of probate, and so many ways to minimize what has to go through probate, and so many ways to make it move more smoothly that if people understood that, they wouldn't have the fear of probate that they have. And they would manage more easily than they think they could to keep out of probate, if they knew the ways that that could be done. And so I really think it's a matter of education and not legislation.

Please describe the qualities, preparation, or experience you would bring to the office and the commitments and changes you would make to the position to best meet the needs of the residents of Lincoln County.

Judge Burrows: Well, when I first got elected, I would have answered that differently. But now, at this point, I've served as a probate judge for six years, which means I've accumulated experience. Also,

we have formal training every year. The CEI, the Court Education Institute, we have mandatory trainings every year, so I've been doing that every year. I've served as a mentor to new incoming judges. I recently completed some training videos at the request of CEI for newly elected judges. And so that six years and that exposure to the formal training of the courts has prepared me to continue to serve in this position. What was the second part?

The commitments and changes you would make?

Oh, changes, yeah. Well, I did make changes when I came in because there has been a fluidity to the position, because it is very part-time. But I made that change to establish and maintain regular office hours, and that's been very helpful for a lot of reasons. It helps the clerk staff do their workflow. It helps people understand and anticipate how long it'll be. They know how long it'll be when I'm going to be there the next time. and so that's been a that's been a really good upgrade. I've also worked on the website, to improve access to the forms. I've volunteered to talk to groups about the probate process, and I think in the future I would like to do additional community outreach.

Pam Beckman: I've kind of answered that too. But the experience that I have is my 43 years of practice of law. It's been the bulk of my working life, I guess, and probably what would prepare me the best for this kind of a job. The work that I did before I became an attorney when I was in law school and before was insurance companies and government work and nothing that really would have helped anybody at all. It was a matter of getting through law school to be able to do it. So it was a job that was not too challenging. But in 43 years of practicing law, I have owned my own business. I've worked for other attorneys. I've worked in the DA's office, in the public defender department. So I've worked with state agencies and privately. I worked for COPE, the Center of Protective Environment, representing victims of domestic violence. My experience leads me to understand how government positions work, requirements of government employees, which the probate judge is going to be, to understand the workings of municipal government, and the workings of a courthouse court positions, from years of being a trial attorney, basically. But my experience as a family law attorney is what will give me the ability to deal one-on-one with people, to understand the pain, to understand and sympathize with what they're going through, to be able to speak to

them in terms that they, at that point in their lives, can understand. If the person passed away a year ago, and they're bringing the probate in now, they're probably not as heavily grieving as they would have been a year earlier. But some people come in right away because they want to know what it is they have to do. We have things we have to take care of, and they're coming in right away. And they're in the middle of the grieving process. That's what I've been dealing with for the better part of 43 years. And I think my experience allows me to, or has taught me how to deal, with people who are at that stage of their life, at that stage of their grieving process.

There was a second part of the question: What changes you would make to the position to best meet the needs of the residents?

Okay, so I don't know. First hand, I've not filed in probate court. I've not gone to probate court and said I need to file a probate. So I don't know exactly what their process is in this office and how this office handles things, but I know how probate courts in general operate. It may be a change for me to have two and a half or three days a week in the office. That would be what I intend to do, so if that's a change, that's going to be a change. It is my intent to, if I'm there, to be speaking one-on-one with people. I honestly don't know if the current judge does that. But that would be my intent, and if that's a change, then that's a change. I know from looking at the website there are not hours posted, so that is a change that I would make is to be posting the hours. I would intend to, if it's possible to deal with this county clerk's office, to post the phone number that's directly to me, rather than to the clerk's office, or to the clerk. So the people can call directly to me if that's a possibility.