

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

Summer is gone and so are bright flowers, hot weather and afternoons on the boat. However, the coming of Fall brings with it beautiful colors, a cool breeze and football. The changing season and my recent success in light of change, have inspired me to write an article about the way people view change. How you view change is all a matter of perspective. Most likely, it is the fear of change, rather than the actual changing circumstance, that hinders our ability to make changes where clearly they are necessary. Whether we like it or not, change is inevitable, so instead of resisting it, accept and appreciate it as a new challenge!

Recently, I attended an informational meeting at Eastpointe District Court in which the court staff is willing and excited to participate as a pilot for e-filing. E-filing is one of many trends the internet has brought to our profession which will greatly enhance our ability to practice law. Many courts have been approved by the Michigan Supreme Court to utilize e-filing, but surprisingly very few have implemented the change. Why would courts and practitioners be reluctant to employ a measure of filing which would ultimately be much more efficient to the practice of law?

I cannot be certain as to the answer, but my guess is, because implementing change requires time, commitment and some degree of courage, and we have neglected to focus the energy needed to adopt new technology that will in the long-run help us practice more efficiently. However, I don't believe the lack of energy needed to implement change is unique to the legal profession. I believe people in general are comfortable with familiarity which hinders their ability and desire to effectuate change.

As attorneys, we do not have the luxury of comfort because the legal profession is fraught with change. We are constantly challenged by diverging laws, new interpretations of statutes and novel, legal issues. Therefore, it is imperative that as attorneys we learn to adapt to those changes instead of resisting them. In the long run, it takes more energy to resist change, than it does to simply embrace it.

By the time you read this article, Macomb County will have a new Prosecutor for the first time in 20 years. How exciting! This will be a new challenge for both the lawyers practicing in criminal law and the new Prosecutor elected to head such an integral part of the criminal justice system. As attorneys, we are fortunate to have the knowledge and skills necessary to adapt to changing circumstances, so I am confident a new leader at the Prosecutor's office will be well received by Macomb County attorneys.

Change is challenging, but it is challenging experiences that make life interesting. Next time you are faced with a change, whether it is optional or inevitable, remember to spend your energy learning from and embracing it. Change is inevitable, but it is our attitude toward it that ultimately dictates how we experience it.