



Hanft tapped for family court

By BOB GARDINIER, Staff writer

First published in print: Thursday, June 18, 2009

TROY - Longtime family court lawyer Richard A. Hanft has been nominated by Gov. David Paterson to fill a judicial vacancy in Rensselaer County Family Court.

One of two family court judicial seats was vacated in March when Judge Linda Griffin retired.

For more than 35 years, Hanft has practiced family and matrimonial law in Rensselaer County Family Court and has served as a certified law guardian.

He must now be confirmed by the Senate.

The seat, which has a 10-year term, has attracted a crowd since March. Hanft will have to run in a primary against two other Democrats interested in the seat, attorneys Beth Walsh and Geri Pomerantz. The winner of the primary will face Republican Arthur Dunn in November.

Hanft serves as counsel to the Albany firm of Tully Rinckey PLLC and also as legislative assistant to the Troy City Council. He was Troy's corporation counsel from 1992 through 1994 and has been counsel for the towns of Nassau and North Greenbush, to both the majority and the minority of the Rensselaer County Legislature and the county Sewer District.