

Villar will break county's 'inner circle'

To the editor,

The Allegan County judicial system has been plagued with over-extending, over-controlling, inserted leadership since Marge Bakker went on her quest to create a dynasty of persons around her that are easily manipulated to achieve her desired outcome. This is commonly referred to as the "Inner Circle" around the county.

Those who oppose Bakker feel the wrath of her unchecked power granted to her through her original appointed position as chief circuit court judge. Those put on the outside find doors closed to an opportunity. This is regardless of an individual's qualifications, contributions they have made or capability to move our judicial process and county forward.

Diversity in people and ideas should be embraced. Fact that can change an outcome should not be hidden. Particularly in our judicial process.

Most already know these things and are reluctant to voice openly out

of fear of retaliation. I am writing you to say you have real opportunity to start bringing about change.

Two candidates are running in the Aug. 7 Republican primary for chief prosecutor: Myrene Koch and Michael Villar. Myrene was appointed as the current chief prosecutor by Bakker without the typical consideration of other candidates or public election. She is Judge Bakker's understudy and inner circle participant from the prosecutor's office. This seems well known through talk around the court house.

Bakker's roundabout endorsement of Myrene is a violation of judicial ethics. An active judge is not supposed to endorse anyone for political office. Myrene is currently and would continue to be an extension, on the puppet strings of Marge Bakker, who manipulates procedure intended to ensure fairness in our judicial process.

That leaves Michael Villar, an attorney and longtime local businessman. He has by far the most real-world experience in all aspects

of the law. Criminal, family, business and real estate are areas he has practiced in.

Michael is not part of the inner circle or political party fighting that plagues America. He is a longtime county resident who has been a worship leader for 15 years in his church. He has coached youth sports and is involved in many charitable fundraising activities. He is personally invested in our community and would like to ensure it is a growing, safe place for our families.

Michael is not afraid to provide alternate opinions or to listen to someone who has an alternate view. He realizes the backbone of a free nation and safe community is an effective and fair judicial process that focuses on prevention and enforcement of the law based on proven fact. Judicial decisions cannot be based on predetermined outcome. My endorsement is with Michael Villar.

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