

# Key Seneca job going to Ovid lawyer

## Getman gets nod as public defender

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WATERLOO — Seneca County is expected to get a new public defender at the Board of Supervisors' year-end meeting Thursday.

Steven Getman of Ovid is expected to be appointed to the post for a one-year term, effective Jan. 1, said Sharon Secor, the board's clerk.

Supervisor Ken Stafford of Varick, who heads the board's public safety committee, said Getman, 30, of 1773 County Road 132, was the only candidate for the position being vacated by Thomas Jones Saturday. Jones resigned to spend more time with his family. The part-time post will pay \$38,058 in 1995.

"He appeared before the county Republican Executive Committee earlier this week and was unanimously endorsed. He was the only candidate," said Stafford.

Getman said the assistant public defender Stuart Miller would remain in his post.

"I have no plans to eliminate one of the finest attorneys I have ever worked with," said Getman. "Stuart Miller can continue as assistant public defender as long as he likes."

Getman also said he intends to

continue his private practice. He has practiced law with the firm of Franklin & Gabriel of Ovid since January 1992, after graduating from Hofstra University in Hempstead, Nassau County. He previously served as a law clerk with the firm and was a law intern with the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Getman has served as lead counsel in criminal and civil courts and has served as assigned counsel for felony criminal appeals.

Since March, 1992, he also has been a member of the law guardian panel in Seneca County, representing juveniles in family court actions.

In 1991, Getman announced his interest in the Republican nomination for district attorney, but withdrew his candidacy and the party chose Donna Cathy instead. Cathy was eventually elected to the post.

Although Getman will take up Jones' duties immediately, he won't be handling one high-profile case, that of Peter Debo, who is accused of smothering his infant daughter in June 1991.

That case was assigned to Robert Zimmerman of Shortsville, Ontario County, last Wednesday. Acting state Supreme Court Judge W. Patrick Falvey appointed Zimmerman to handle the case because Getman has a conflict of interest stemming from a Family Court case he handled. □