

711 Oak attorney MIKE STEFANI before a disciplinary board that he leaked the messages to the newspaper.

The suit says Stefani violated a confidentiality agreement requiring him to turn over all copies of the explosive messages in exchange for settling police whistleblower lawsuits involving three ex-troit officers he represented.

James Thomas, Kilpatrick's attorney, told the *Detroit Free Press* that any damages would go to the city of Detroit. The suit seeks \$2.666 million in damages. Kilpatrick was into the middle of his second term as mayor when the sexually explicit text messages with his then-chief of Staff Christine Beatty were published by the newspaper.

He stepped down after pleading guilty to obstruction of justice and no contest to a assault. He admitted he lied during a civil trial to cover up an affair with Beatty. He served jail time.

See "Briefly," page 23

defendant.

Other red flags include those cases where a single witness makes identification, it's the only evidence linking someone to a

are faster than transcripts."

What Sacks learned in Long's case was that there was another son at the complainant's house who never seemed to play

If you would like to comment on this story, please contact Carol Lundberg at (248) 865-3105 or carol.lundberg@mi.lawyersweekly.com.

# After making waves in Lansing, former politician rediscovers his legal passion

How does an attorney come back into practice after 25 years away from it?

With a lot more experience — and just as much vigor.

Thirteen years ago, at age 40, David M. Honigman tearfully resigned from 11 years in the Michigan Legislature — first as a Republican in the House of Representatives, then as a senator — for health reasons.

But, earlier this year, after returning to metro Detroit following five years in Wyoming, Honigman had a chance encounter with Troy attorney Gerard V. Mantese. The two were fresh-out-of-law-school associates at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP in the early 1980s, and their rekindled friendship quickly expanded to a professional one.

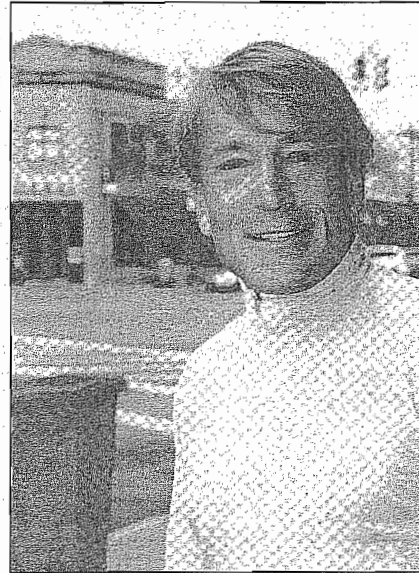
Now, as partner of the newly named Mantese Honigman & Rossman, P.C., Honigman is experiencing a renaissance.

"I love practicing law," he said. "It's in my blood. I like the intellectual challenge of it. ... It's similar to constituent service, where you're trying to help an individual or [business] meet some challenge. It's very fulfilling to help people, really."

Based on his track record in Congress, Honigman has helped many people. As a self-proclaimed "free-market conservative," he introduced and crafted bills for grandparent-grandchildren rights, hate crimes, tort and liability reform, workers' compensation assessment, anti-domestic terrorism and privacy protections.

Many times, he said, his outspokenness on the issues made him unpopular within his party. But that same demeanor made him well-respected among voters who crossed

## On the Stand



David M. Honigman

Mantese Honigman & Rossman, P.C.

Education: University of Michigan Law School

Specialties: Business litigation, environmental law, consumer rights law

party lines to be sure he was re-elected.

"It's easy to be smart," Honigman said. "It's harder to be good."

But having that political experience has helped with some of the cases he's now working on. One of them involves getting insurers in other states to offer coverage for autism-related procedures and medicines, an action that springboards from a \$1 million class-action settlement Mantese made with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan earlier this year.

"These class actions are almost like being in government," he explained. "It's a representative action; you're representing a large class of people and you're pursuing their interests against some wrongdoer. ... It's just like community organizing."

Further, he said, "you can look for an issue where you feel some redress is required and be on the lookout for plaintiffs. ... Even when I was in the government, I was always trying to limit the power of government."

Just like making a legal comeback, Honigman said it's tempting to pursue a governmental one, too, and hinted that if the right call is there, he could see heeding it. But, he said, there's security in his rechosen profession.

"In politics, you never know what's going to happen," he said. "There's term limits, re-election. But one good thing about law is, it's flexible. You can do a lot of things."

There is something, however, Honigman said he doesn't understand.

"There aren't that many attorneys in the Legislature [these days]," he said. "I don't know why. Decades ago, almost everybody was an attorney. Now, mostly they're businesspeople."

— DOUGLAS J. LEVY

## [ Contents ]

### Special Section

Up & Coming Lawyers ..... Section B

### News & Features

- OCBA News ..... page 17
- Briefly Speaking ..... page 3
- Calendar & Events ..... page 5
- LawBiz Coach's Corner ..... page 4
- Letter to the Editor ..... page 5
- People in the Law ..... page 23
- Verdicts & Settlements ..... page 7
- Online Marketing Feature ..... page 4

### This Week's Decisions

- 5th U.S. Circuit ..... page 6
- Michigan Supreme Court ..... page 8
- Court of Appeals ..... page 10
- Attorney Discipline Board ..... page 18

### Directories

- Alternative Dispute Resolution ... page 20
- Classified ..... page 19
- Experts ..... page 21
- Lawyer to Lawyer Referral ..... page 20
- Legal Products & Services ..... page 21