

Weather | Traffic | Free email updates  
Subscribe to the newspapers |



If you are looking for a new home in Southern Maryland, we have you covered. Single family homes from \$289,900. www.QBH.com



Independent | The Enterprise | The Recorder | Sports | Business | Community | Opinions | JOBS | CARS | REAL ESTATE

Obituaries Calendar Classifieds Advertising Special Publications Contact Us



SEARCH  GO ADVANCED SEARCH

Wednesday, October 24, 2012



# Densford, Stanalonis clash continues

Questions target opponents in campaign

By John Wharton, Staff Writer

St. Mary's appointed Judge David W. Densford and his challenger, assistant county prosecutor Joseph M. Stanalonis, continued their battle over election to a 15-year term on the circuit bench at a candidates' forum last Thursday, where they kept at their ongoing critiques of each other.

Questions submitted during the event held by the Center for the Study of Democracy and St. Mary's branch of the NAACP at Leonardtown High School included ones aimed at specific issues concerning each of the two contenders, who also found opportunities to level criticisms while answering inquiries of a more general nature.

On the topic of "out-of-county" money and lawyers injecting themselves in the contest, Densford said that he is not the candidate who "brought in" a former congressional candidate and former governor for support. Stanalonis' website includes announcements of an endorsement by former Gov. Robert Ehrlich (R) and a campaign event attended by Charles Lollar, a Republican candidate for Congress in 2010.

Stanalonis countered that he is not the judicial candidate who received a donation from a political action committee for incumbent judges in Prince George's County, one that Stanalonis said opposes judicial elections. "It's a philosophy I don't agree with," he said.

A question about the candidates' conduct toward each other did little to ease the tension. "The people sitting out there have asked us the questions. The answers need to be the truth," Stanalonis said. "We should treat each other with dignity and respect."

Densford, 60, said that he has not been the candidate criticizing a judicial campaign conduct committee, a judicial

nominating commission that recommended Densford and three other lawyers for the job, or the governor who gave him the appointment last year, Martin O'Malley (D).

"I have only criticized my opponent when he has been found to be lacking by one of them," Densford said.

Stanalonis, 41, criticized the closed-door proceedings of the judicial nominating commission that twice has not sent his name up for consideration by the governor.

"It does not mean that you're not qualified. The fact that my name has not been sent in is a mystery. They operate in secret," Stanalonis said, noting that federal judges are confirmed at open hearings.

The two candidates, both registered Democrats, continued to receive questions about their adherence to their

profession's code of ethics. "I have done everything I can to stay above board and ethical," Densford said.

Stanalonis said his professionalism never has been challenged until an anonymous complaint was filed against him earlier this month with the state's attorney grievance commission. He predicted that grievance will be dismissed, "probably the day after the election." Stanlonis said in an earlier interview that the complaint involves statements in a campaign flier.

Densford later said, "That's just one more group that he wants to place blame [on], and not take responsibility."

On the issue of controlling lawyers' conduct in court, Densford said he would call an attorney to the bench if necessary "and tell them we're not going to have this anymore." Stanalonis said he has witnessed judges who have "called an attorney out" in a courtroom.

"I have seen them do that without dignity and without respect," the prosecutor said. "I don't think that's appropriate."

Stanalonis said in his closing remarks that he would treat everyone in his courtroom with "dignity and respect." In last spring's primary election, Stanalonis won the Republican contest and Densford won the Democratic contest, and Stanalonis said he received more votes overall.

Densford continued his criticism of his challenger as the forum concluded.

"My opponent does not respect the process, ... saying things that are not so about the process or about me," the judge

### More News

- Neighbors upset at St. Charles plan
- Kindergartners in county match state average in readiness
- Solar farms could go on old St. Mary's landfills
- Enrollment passes 100 for independent Catholic school
- Teen charged after father stabbed in Hollywood home



ADVERTISEMENT

### Looking to Change Careers?

Post Your Resume Online and See What Southern Maryland Has to Offer! [Click Here.](#)



ADVERTISEMENT

### Need a Car or Truck?

Start Your Search Today! [Click Here.](#)



ADVERTISEMENT

### 2015 St. Mary's County Newcomers Guide

Click Here to check out the 2015 new comers guide. It's filled with great information, businesses and activities native to St. Mary's County.



### FEATURED JOBS

[See all >](#)

CDL DRIVER/LABORER CLASS B LIC. SOUTHERN TREE SERV. - White Plains

ACCOUNTANT Doctors on Sight - Waldorf

CARPENTER Residential remodeling J&J BUILDERS - Waldorf



2012 Nissan Maxima \$15,791

### Nissan of Bowie

Bowie, MD | 301-867-6150 | <http://www.nissanofbowie.com>  
[See all internet specials](#)

### MOST READ

1. Teen charged after father stabbed in Hollywood
2. NRC determines Lusby plant's response to power line failure appropriate
3. Memory walk at Serenity Farm raises awareness, gives comfort
4. Waldorf man, 60, dies in Accokeek crash
5. St. Mary's burglary suspects accused of \$50,000 jewelry theft
6. Leonardtown man accused of sex offense in van
7. Utilities spread 'smart meters' across Maryland, but some homeowners hold out
8. Roller derby finds a home in Southern Maryland

ADVERTISEMENT

**Nationwide**  
What's precious to you is precious to us  
Get a quote from: Frank Goldbach  
301-862-3991 [GO >](#)