

THE ROLE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

There are three vital roles which the District Attorney must fill: 1) chief criminal prosecutor; 2) administrator and overseer of the County-wide criminal justice system; and 3) guardian of the moral tone of the community.

A thorough and diligent trial lawyer can function adequately as a chief prosecutor. As well, a capable administrator can oversee the routine operation of any system or office. However, the most difficult responsibility of the District Attorney is that of guardian of the moral tone of the Community. It is here that the quality and philosophy of the person is crucial.

The District Attorney must realize, above all, that he is an officer of the court and must dedicate himself to the highest standards of justice. The primary consideration in handling a case should be the equities of the particular case, whereby the sole decision criterion is what is fair and reasonable under the circumstances. Only a District Attorney with prosecutorial self-confidence and individual character can successfully apply this criterion. Conversely, A District Attorney who allows

possible political or public relations considerations to taint his judgment has failed.

The District Attorney's staff must be improved, with the emphasis placed on hiring, training and keeping capable assistants. Once the District Attorney is confident of the professional ability of his assistants, they must be given the discretion and authority to handle their own cases.

The criminal justice system in Monroe County is in total disarray, with no improvement in sight. The newly elected District Attorney must have the experience, ability and reputation to put before the electorate solutions to the critical problems currently destroying Monroe County's criminal justice system.

John J. Ark

JOHN J. ARK'S PROPOSALS AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY

To professionalize the District Attorney's legal staff by recruiting in law schools, by training sessions and seminars, and by demanding a three year commitment to the job.

The top three assistants should be screened by the Bar Association with citizen input as to their competence and integrity.

Requesting that the Bar Association with citizen input set up a permanent committee to monitor Monroe County's Criminal Justice System.

The District Attorney must be in the courtroom trying cases in order to keep abreast of what juries are thinking. The community should see its District Attorney in court.

THE
NEW
DA
JOHN ARK

...it's time.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect John J. Ark District Attorney