

BENZIE COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE
85th DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 4, 2008
Polling Hours: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Candidates' responses are presented as submitted unless they exceeded the 150 word limit, in which case "...” is inserted.

District Court Judge – 85th District		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running (150 word limit)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities (150 word limit)
John R. Brakora	I have practiced law in Manistee for twenty-nine years, representing people from all walks of life: the wealthy, the impoverished, and those: in between. Some clients had large problems and some small. Some clients retained my services, and some clients I represented through court appointment. My practice has taken me to courts across the State. I am licensed to practice in the Western District of the Federal Court, and I have appeared before the Michigan Court of Appeals nearly forty times, This diversity of experience gives me a good sense of how a court should or should not run. I am running for this position because I want to make a difference. There is work to be done to improve the way the Court functions, so it better serves the public. The sooner that begins, the better off the people of these two counties will be.	1. To restore a sense of public service. That requires a judge who: a) Is in the courthouse all day – every day; b) Treats every individual who comes before the Court with respect, regardless of whether they are a victim, witness, police officer, person accused of committing a crime, litigant, or juror; c) Takes the time to assure that every person who comes before the Court understands the proceedings. No one should ever leave the courtroom and have to ask, "What just happened in there?" 2. To explore alternative programs for drug, alcohol, and domestic violence related crimes in an effort to decrease repeat offenses by addressing the underlying problems. 3. To employ programs for young offenders which allow them to prove that they can be law abiding citizens, rather than simply imposing punishment and sending them on their way with two years probation.
Brent Danielson	Hon. Brent Danielson - Judge of District Court for Benzie & Manistee Counties. Wife of 35 years Nancy (recently retired schoolmarm from Bear Lake Schools). Two adult children and four beautiful grandchildren. Qualifications: Olivet College B.A. 1972. Thomas M. Cooley Law School J.D. 1976, with distinction. Krolczyk & Danielson 1976-1984. Manistee County Prosecutor 1980-1984. Judge of 85 th District Court 1985 – present. Volunteers services as Chairman of Board of Directors, Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Reasons Running: Judges don't always make people happy: that is not our calling in life. But on occasion, some who have had to "learn the hard way" will later reflect with gratitude that they bumped into a judge that took their conduct seriously. It gives me pride that something I have done has made a difference. To make a difference in the community. The first function of the court system is to maintain the peace.	Top three priorities for the office and the reasons for choosing those priorities. My priorities will remain unchanged. 1) The court will continue to operate in an efficient manner, on budget and on time, because justice delayed is justice denied. 2) The court will continue to be a forum for the impartial and peaceful resolution of disputes. 3) The court will continue to treat all those with business in the court, jurors, litigants and defendants, with the courtesy, dignity and respect they deserve. There really is no choice when it comes to setting priorities: these are the essential business of the court.