

Ovid attorney to represent Seneca Social Services

Ovid attorney Steven Getman has assumed the duties of attorney for the Seneca County Department of Social Services. The appointment was effective Monday.

Getman, a life-long resident of Ovid, was appointed to the part-time position by Charles Schillaci, the commissioner of social services.

Prior to his appointment, Getman was serving as Seneca County public defender, also in

a part-time capacity. In his letter of resignation to the Board of Supervisors, Getman, 31, cited as his main reason for changing jobs his desire to protect the children of Seneca County from abuse and poverty, and his respect for Schillaci and the department's staff.

"I am truly looking forward to working with this fine group of people for the betterment of Seneca County and its citizens,

Getman was quoted as saying.

THE MOVE WAS a cause-and-effect from the appointment last week of Emil Bove Jr. to the New York State Attorney General's Office. Bove had been the the Department of Social Services attorney for the county, and Schillaci

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had asked the board for permission to fill the position immediately.

The Department of Social Services attorney represents the department in the various courts of New York State, including bringing action in Family Court against parents accused of abusing or neglecting their children. He also advises the commissioner and staff on various legal issues.

In his term as public defender, Getman was able to win dismissal or reduction of the pending charges against many of his indigent clients. In June he represented Charles Teeter of Waterloo in an almost four-day rape trial which resulted in a jury acquitting Teeter of all felony charges.

As the Department of Social Services position is part-time, Getman plans to continue his private law practice. he is an associate of James Gabriel in the Ovid

law firm of Franklin & Gabriel. The firm practices in a number of areas, including real estate, trusts and estates, debt collection and municipal law.

GETMAN IS the son of Roger and Barbara Getman, also of Ovid. He is a 1982 graduate of South Seneca High School, a 1986 graduate of Cornell University and a 1991 graduate of Long Island's Hofstra University Law School.

Getman previously served on

Seneca County's law guardian panel, representing juveniles in Family Court actions. In May, 1994, he was named a liaison to New York State's Fourth Department Law Guardian Advisory Committee. he committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court with respect to training law guardians and the promulgation of rules and standards for improving the quality of legal representation of chil-

dren. He is currently the secretary of the Seneca County Bar Association.

Bove was named an assistant attorney general assigned to the Rochester office. Although he has been unavailable for comment, it is expected Bove will handle cases involving consumer fraud, civil lawsuits, enforcements of environmental regulations and appeals. He officially starts work with the attorney general's office today (Oct., 5).

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