

Local Municipal Judge Who Tossed DA's Name Around At OWI Arrest Takes Plea Bargain; He's Still A Judge
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

A prominent local attorney who brags about his expertise in handling drunk driving cases has entered into a plea bargain in his own OWI case. The lawyer, Mark Powers of Eagle in southern Waukesha County, threw around the name of Waukesha County District Attorney Sue Opper when he was arrested for OWI by a DNR warden.

At the time Powers said he would take full responsibility for his actions. But he instead lawyered up and initially pleaded not guilty. He ultimately accepted a plea bargain in which he was convicted of first offense drunk driving (operating while intoxicated) and charges of having an open container of alcohol and lane deviation were dismissed. Powers' drivers' license was revoked for nine months and he was fined. Because Powers knows Opper, the case was handled by a special prosecutor, Ozaukee County DA Adam Gerol.

Powers is also the part-time municipal judge for a joint court that covers the Town of Mukwonago, North Prairie, the Village of Vernon and both the Town and Village of Eagle. Officials in those communities have not responded to my inquiries. The municipal court handles many drunk driving cases and the judge will now be a fellow drunk driver himself.

The DNR warden's arrest report indicated Powers threw around his connections and said he had just been with Opper, the outgoing Waukesha DA. The report also said Powers said: "Do you know what the ** you have done, doing this ****?"**

Powers' blood alcohol content was recorded at 0.26, more than three times the legal limit for drunk driving. Powers often speaks out on handling drunk driving cases and even appeared in a Fox 6 news story a decade ago in which he passed himself off as a DUI expert.

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