

NEWSMAKER/ALLEN WOLF

Flair for productions wins points with juries

One of the top guns in L. Brooks Patterson's office, assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Allen Wolf is known as "Cecil B. DeWolf" around circuit court because of his flair for productions that make points with juries.

Wolf acknowledges he's "really into audio-visual aids in the courtroom" and often can be seen wheeling around his pride and joy, a special cart, or "clavet," as he calls it, that he designed for transporting case files.

It doubles as a stand for an overhead projector.

ONE OF WOLF'S recent video extravaganzas was staged during closing arguments in the trial of Victor Malone, accused of murdering a prostitute whose body was found in Southfield.

No fewer than 10 other assistant prosecutors slipped into the courtroom audience as Wolf put photos of the victim's body on a television screen during his closing argument.

Wolf said it was the first time a live

video camera and closed circuit television had been used in a Michigan courtroom.

"I didn't have to hold up a small photograph in front of the jury and pass it around," he said.

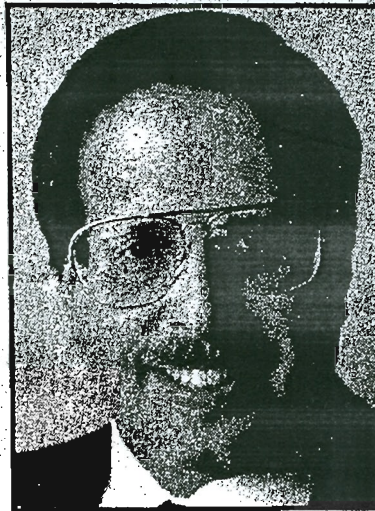
"Some of the photos had important parts in proving first-degree murder, especially the premeditation element: to show them the ligature mark, how deep it was, how long the defendant had to hold that wire around the victim's neck in order to make that mark, the kind of torture he put her through."

Wolf also claims to be the first attorney in Michigan to use videotape of a crime scene at a trial.

County Prosecutor Patterson calls Wolf "one of the most exciting professional trial attorneys that I've ever seen.

"I wake up nights in a cold sweat, worried that some big law firm is going to hire him away," Patterson said. "He takes a case, works the hell out of it and gets fantastic results."

— Patricia Chargot



Free Press/DAYMON J. HARTLEY

- **Name:** Allen Wolf.
- **Age:** 32 (born Christmas Eve, 1953).
- **Occupation:** Executive staff attorney, Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.
- **Salary:** \$52,000.
- **Family:** Wife, Suzy; son, Jeremy, 5.
- **Education:** Bachelor's and law degrees, Wayne State University.
- **Likes:** Amateur radio, scuba diving, computers, working behind the register Saturdays at family hardware store in Detroit.
- **Quote:** On switching, "after eight years, from radio newscasting to prosecuting criminals: "As a reporter, you sit in a courtroom and try to remain objective by covering both sides of the story. . . . Being a prosecutor, I'm in the courtroom wearing a white hat and I'm accomplishing something."