

ON THE STAND

When there's business to take care of in or near downtown Detroit, nearly every metro Detroit attorney hops one of the freeways to get there.

Jerome P. Pesick prefers the scenic route — or, as he's inclined to call it, the iconic one.

"I never tire of driving back and forth on Woodward Avenue," he said, referring to the storied road that's considered the main "spoke" going in and out of Detroit's civic center. "I do that all the time, even though it takes maybe 10 minutes more to do that than taking the freeway."

It's easy for Pesick to do, as the road cuts through his Birmingham office, and he describes it as viewing a history lesson of the city.

But as someone who specializes in eminent domain and property tax appeals, Pesick has had a hand in the area's shifting landscape. And everyday travel offers him constant reminders.

"When I drive down I-696 or downtown to the stadiums, I have some history I can tell stories about," he said. "Like, 'Centerfield was so-and-so's property,' or, 'This leg of 696 was where the nursery or the car dealership was.'"

Is there a structure you'd want most to be brought back to Detroit?

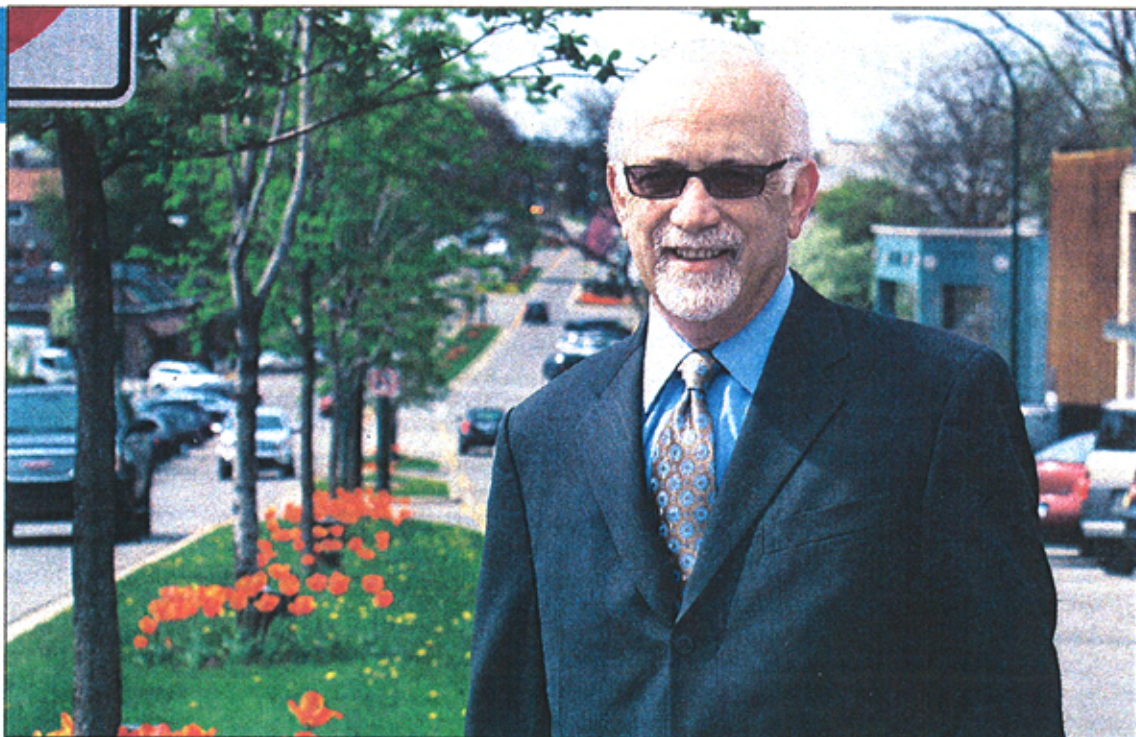
Baseball was my life when I was a kid. I played it every day. And me and people of my generation felt a connection to Tiger Stadium. I don't know that I'd say at this point that I'd want them to bring it back, because it was time for it to go, but maybe you kind of wish they could have perpetuated the stadium. In a perfect world, you wish it could still be here and there wouldn't be a need for a new stadium.

Is there something you keep in your office that motivates you every day?

A lot of pictures of my family. And I have a mini statue of Rodin's "The Thinker," which every once in a while I look up to it to remind myself, "Let's think about this."

What was the worst place you ever lived?

The apartment I was living at during law school. It wasn't terrible, but when I got done and started practicing, I was not unhappy to leave it.



LW photo by Douglas J. Levy

Jerome P. Pesick Steinhardt Pesick & Cohen, P.C., Birmingham

Education: University of Detroit School of Law

Specialties: Eminent domain, property tax appeals

What personality trait do you think holds you back?

I like to think I have the ability to connect to different types of people ... but I'd like to be able to break the ice a little bit easier. It takes more time than I'd like to.

If you had to wear a T-shirt with one word on it for the rest of your life, what word is it?

"Michigan," as in the university. I'm a big fan.

What were you doing the last time you had a really

good laugh?

I was on the golf course with my friends. I can't tell you exactly what it was, but there are always a few good laughs. Some of it may be printable, some may not be (*laughs*).

— DOUGLAS J. LEVY