

An out-of-county judge has now been assigned to hear the drug possession case of former La Crosse cop Brian Thomson.

On-line court records show that Monroe County Judge Todd Ziegler will preside over the case, to avoid a possible conflict of interest with La Crosse judges who routinely work with local police. The state justice department has assigned a special prosecutor. Formal charges were filed against Thomson yesterday...more than two months after he quit the La Crosse Police following an internal investigation. Thomson is accused of stealing drugs that were seized as evidence in criminal cases, and he was caught tampering with a phony drug package planted in the evidence room.