



State of Tennessee
Ninth Judicial District
Office of District Attorney General
Russell Johnson

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Hank Sledge, CS ADA

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Bowden R. Ladd
Jeff Vittatoe

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Tina Jarnagin
Holly Miller
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Rita Johnson
Angie Vittatoe

Drug Task Force
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PRESS RELEASE
September 12, 2013

District Attorney General Russell Johnson announced today (September 1st) the hiring of local attorney and Kingston native, Terry L. Stevens, II, as an Assistant District Attorney for his office. Stevens was sworn in by Criminal Court Judge E. Eugene Eblen at a ceremony held in the training room at the DAG's office attended by

Roane County General Sessions Judges Dennis Humphrey and Jeff Wicks, as well as Morgan County General Sessions Judge Mike Davis. Along with members of the DAG's office were Stevens' wife, Lindsey; five month old daughter, Brooklyn; his parents, Martha and Terry Stevens, Sr.; grandfather, Gene Pickel and his mother-in-law, Vicki Hix.



The position that Stevens will fill was created as a result of intense lobbying by General Johnson who pointed out that the 9th DAG's Office has not had an increase in the number of Assistant DA's since Charlie Hawk was in office in the late 1990's. "We have been operating with just five ADAs since 1998 even though the district-wide population has grown from 121,000 in 2000 to over 142,000 in 2010," Johnson stated. He used a chart showing that his office has one ADA to 27,295 persons when the state average for the other 30 DAG offices was one ADA to only 15,669 persons. "We cover four counties, appear before five judges and we are in court every day of the week, sometimes in three different counties at the same time," Johnson explained, "So, especially when I showed the Conference and the State the 'apples to apples' comparison with the number of ADAs other offices have, they were finally able to create us a 'near entry level' position in order to add another ADA."

General Johnson described his new employee as a 'good fit'. "Terry will fill the bill nicely. He has been practicing with Sandy McPherson for about three years, so he already has some experience. He knows the judges, the defense lawyers and the court system in our district. The judges, lawyers and clerks are all familiar with him and, when I started looking for a person for this position, his name was first on almost everyone's list of recommendations."

Terry Stevens said that he is very excited about this new opportunity and “thankful General Johnson presented [the position] to [him]”. Terry went on to say, “I look forward to doing my part in upholding the high expectations of the Attorney General's Office of the 9th Judicial District.”

END OF RELEASE

