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'I always want to be able to grow': Skaggs sworn in as new McLean County Circuit Court Clerk

By Freddie Bourne Messenger-Inquirer
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Taylor Skaggs

Taylor Skaggs, current chief deputy for the McLean County Circuit Clerk's office, was appointed as the new Circuit Court Clerk on Monday at the McLean County Courthouse Annex.

Skaggs, 33, was officially sworn into the role in a formal ceremony by Circuit Judge Brian Wiggins, chief circuit judge for McLean and Muhlenberg counties.

Originally from Sacramento and a 2009 McLean County High School graduate, Skaggs got started in the county government office eight years ago after graduating from Western Kentucky University's Owensboro campus with a degree in psychology.

"I was actually in Elizabethtown at the time, and I heard there was a position that was open here in the circuit clerk's office, filled out the paperwork and I applied," she said. "My mom had actually worked here part-time previously, and she was the one who told me the position was open."

Skaggs first began as deputy clerk where she said she "(made) my way through learning everything that I could" from drivers licenses, district court and circuit court processes.

She was eventually named chief deputy in 2021.

"I like the challenge of the job," Skaggs said. "You don't typically see the same thing over and over."

Besides assisting the public through administrative tasks, Skaggs said she enjoys having the opportunity to be the bright spot to those experiencing an off-day.

“When people come into our office, typically they’re not coming in here because they’ve had a happy moment,” she said. “ ... Being able to help them through any questions that they have, trying to offer comfort where we can ... and any kind of help we can offer — that’s one of the things that I really enjoy.”

Skaggs will replace Stephanie King-Logsdon, who announced her retirement earlier this month after 23 years. Her last day is slated for Tuesday, Oct. 31, with Skaggs to take the reins officially Nov. 1.

Skaggs touted King-Logsdon’s “wealth of knowledge” and said she has come to be a “wonderful mentor.”

“Anything I had questions about, she was always willing to answer those questions. Anything I wanted to learn, she taught me,” Skaggs said. “We’ve had a very good working relationship over the past eight years.

“I will miss her very dearly,” Skaggs said.

With Skaggs moving into the position, she hopes to “uphold the legacy that has been left behind.”

“I want to do the county justice by serving everyone as well as I possibly can,” Skaggs said. “The legacy that Stephanie has left behind ... is something that definitely needs to stay intact.”

Skaggs looks forward to taking on new responsibilities in the role, such as jury management, while also getting the opportunity to know others that work in similar sectors outside the county.

"I will have my first jury trial in November, so that will be the first jury trial (in which) I will seat a jury on my own," she said. "... I'm looking forward to being able to meet other clerks, see how they run their offices (and) ... building a community."

Throughout her time with the office, Skaggs said it's been vital to her to "always be willing to learn something new."

"When you stop learning, you stop growing; and that is one thing that I don't ever want to stop doing," she said. "I always want to be able to grow and to look into the other side of things ... and see the bigger picture."

Wiggins, who has worked closely with Skaggs for the past year, feels confident in the appointment, especially with the recent changes occurring within the judicial system locally and nationwide, such as moving to a "paperless court system" and the influx of implementing remote court proceedings.

"The only principle that I should be guided by (and) the only principle I've kept in mind is, 'Who will best serve the people of McLean County?' " he said, "and I think it's very necessary that we have somebody in the position who has a tremendous amount of experience, somebody who has a strong work ethic and somebody who can really address all of the challenges that the court of justice is facing now.

"I know she's not going to disappoint me, and I know she's not going to disappoint the folks here in McLean County," Wiggins said.

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