



OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

PETER J. ORPUT COUNTY ATTORNEY

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington County Attorney's Office Criminal Division Chief appointed to District Court Judge

STILLWATER, MN --- Assistant Washington County Attorney Kevin Mueller has been appointed District Court Judge in Minnesota's Tenth Judicial District, Governor Walz announced last Monday. Mueller will be chambered in the City of Anoka in Anoka County.

"I am excited to appoint Mr. Mueller to the Tenth Judicial District," said Governor Walz. "He is an exceptional attorney with a wealth of civil and criminal law experience that will serve him well on the Anoka County bench. I am confident that he will be a leader in the courtroom and community for years to come."

Mueller joined the Washington County Attorney's Office in 2013 and currently serves as Chief of the Criminal Division. He previously held the title of Assistant Criminal Division Chief and was an Assistant Washington County Attorney in the Juvenile and Criminal divisions.

"I am honored and grateful for the trust that Governor Walz has placed in me," said Mueller. "The heavy responsibility afforded by this new position is something that I do not take lightly. While I will miss my colleagues and collaborative partners in Washington County, I look forward to the new challenge that awaits in Anoka County."

Mueller earned his bachelor's degree from Miami University in Ohio and received his Juris Doctor from Northwestern University School of Law. Mueller served as a law clerk for the Honorable Mark Rindner of the Alaska Superior Court before practicing commercial litigation at a private law firm in Chicago. Prior to joining the Washington County Attorney's Office, Mueller worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in Chicago at the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney.

"Kevin is the third prosecutor from our office recently appointed to the bench," said First Assistant Brent Wartner, referring to Judge Siv Mjanger and Judge Jesse L. Seabrooks II. Both were former Washington County Attorneys appointed to the Tenth Judicial District in 2021. "Like the ones before him, Kevin is a leader and person of noble integrity – another great example of the legacy of leadership by Pete."

Mueller's appointment comes on the heels of a grievous loss following the passing of Washington County Attorney Pete Orput on April 3. Orput died after a brief battle with cancer and was a powerful champion of his staff.

"Pete led a team who share his values, morals, and priorities in the pursuit of justice," said Kevin Magnuson, Assistant Washington County Attorney. "Pete entrusted Kevin to prosecute many of the most important cases in the office and to lead our criminal division. That trust came not only because he is a brilliant prosecutor, but also because he has the temperament and judgment to exercise his discretion wisely."

"It was an incredible experience to be mentored in the criminal arena by Pete for nearly a decade given his reputation as a stellar trial lawyer, and even better given the support he provided his team," added Mueller.

A celebration of life will be held for Orput on Wednesday, June 8th from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at La Pointe Events in Somerset, WI.

Mueller will be replacing the Honorable Thomas M. Fitzpatrick in Minnesota's Tenth Judicial District, which encompasses Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright counties.

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