

The citizens of McCracken County have recently learned of significant changes on the horizon in the leadership of their constitutionally created offices of public service. It is my purpose to inform the citizens that another significant change is coming as a result of my decision not to seek a third term as your county attorney.

The areas of legal practice available to a lawyer are vast and varying. This being true, a lawyer has the unique opportunity to grow and develop both as a person and a professional and to utilize his acquired experience and knowledge to guide him toward his next legal pursuit.

I was given my start in the legal profession by the Honorable W. David Denton as a litigation associate at the law firm of Denton & Keuler, LLP, where my practice focused almost exclusively in local government and civil rights defense litigation under the instruction of the Honorable Stacey A. Blankenship, the recognized regional leader in these fields. While I enjoyed the day-to-day practice in these areas of the law, the true benefit of the knowledge and experience I gained was in forming the foundation that allowed me to serve effectively and efficiently as your county attorney in performing my duties as general counsel to the McCracken County local government and chief prosecutor.

Just as in my time as a civil litigator, I have enjoyed the day-to-day legal work as McCracken County Attorney and the broad range of prosecutorial and civil problem-solving opportunities presented. Most folks in our community have no interaction or exposure to the County Attorney's Office, and in my capacity as a criminal prosecutor, I view this as a good thing! However, I've realized many positive accomplishments as county attorney that I'm so very proud of and I feel compelled to share a few of those with my fellow citizens that may not otherwise be aware. Please know that as your county attorney, I've worked to improve the criminal justice system and county-wide public service provision in the following ways over my 14 ½ years with the office:

- Changed the criminal charging procedure to ensure that only legitimate and meritorious prosecutions are brought;
- Conducted law enforcement officer training in the areas of criminal and DUI law to improve enforcement operations and courtroom performance;
- Conducted prosecutor training to instill adherence to the dual roles of a prosecutor as (1) zealous advocates for offender accountability and (2) ministers of justice;
- Successfully and justly prosecuted thousands of criminal and DUI offenses;
- Evaluated and advised in innumerable misdemeanor and felony investigations to ensure that only meritorious charges be initiated on the basis of evidence obtained in compliance with the United States and Kentucky Constitutions;
- Provided our local county government with precise and reliable legal services;
- Compiled multiple hundreds of pages of legal analysis on criminal law/procedure and governmental representation/litigation to benefit our county and my 119 fellow county attorneys across the Commonwealth;
- Twice successfully defended our county in tax litigation against the world's largest multi-national law firm (Dentons Bingham Greenbaum LLP) resulting in the preservation of \$5,282,000.00 in corporate taxable property value critical to the continued provision of public safety services to our citizens and educational opportunities to our children;
- Streamlined my office personnel structure resulting in savings of approximately \$303,604.19 in public funds;
- Originated and implemented the legal solution to a tremendous zoning burden upon our county resulting in savings of approximately \$967,911.37 in public funds.

- Realized these achievements while reducing my own salary by \$14,300.00/yr. resulting in savings of approximately \$100,100.00 in public funds.

I'm confident and optimistic about the future of the office to which I've dedicated the last 14 ½ years of my professional life. The primary reason for this confidence and optimism is the extraordinary nature of the legal and administrative team I've been fortunate enough to assemble. These people truly are the most critical component to the effective operation of this office. It took many years, and several difficult personnel decisions, to arrive finally with the present team that has allowed the accomplishments discussed above to be realized. I'm keenly aware that without the help this team, these accomplishments would have been impossible.

Also driving my confidence and optimism is the reality that the legal analyses I've prepared over the years on the topics of criminal law/procedure and governmental representation will greatly benefit my successor and significantly reduce the trajectory of the learning curve to come. However, properly performing the duties of this job doesn't stop with the support of a phenomenal support team having your back or attaining the depth and breadth of necessary legal knowledge.

To my eventual successor, I offer these guideposts to keep in his or her heart and mind while implementing the critical legal knowledge soon to be learned and leading the team to be inherited:

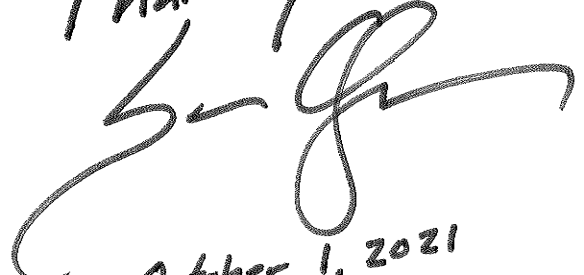
The platitudes and accolades encountered in political/public life can be intoxicating and addictive. Your ego will inevitably draw you to garner more. In light of this reality, strive to do your best in the face of this to ensure that you engage in no action or forbearance to the detriment of your own soul.

TO THAT END I'LL OFFER:

- My 3 rules of public service – (1) Always follow the law; (2) Do what you know is right; (3) Treat all you encounter with respect and equality. Do this and you won't go wrong.
- Remember that a person may not remember exactly what you did or exactly what you said, but they will never forget the way you made them feel.

Please know that it has been an honor and a pleasure serving as your county attorney. Just as my time as a civil litigator prepared me for the challenges of my role as county attorney, the knowledge and experience I've gained as your county attorney have uniquely prepared me for the challenges to be met upon my transition to private practice.

I want the citizens of the county in which I was born, raised and publicly served to know that upon the expiration of my term, I will have dedicated the last 18 + years of my legal career to the benefit of the government, but I intend to devote the remainder to the people.

Thank you!

October 1, 2021