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Judges select Cotter as prosecutor **Berrien County's longtime assistant to replace Cherry, who retired.**

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ST. JOSEPH -- After two decades working a variety of assignments in the Berrien County prosecutor's office, Arthur Cotter will now take over as its chief law enforcement official.

Following a unanimous vote of the county's circuit court judges, Cotter was tapped to succeed Jim Cherry, who retired earlier this month due to health problems.

Berrien County Chief Judge Paul L. Maloney said in a written statement that Cotter "has demonstrated all the qualities required of a prosecuting attorney -- honesty, integrity, highest legal ability, outstanding work ethic, and an unwavering pursuit of justice."

He will finish out the remainder of Cherry's unexpired term through the end of 2008. The position will appear on the November 2008 general election ballot.

Cotter began his career in the prosecutor's office in 1986 as part of the criminal trial staff and was promoted to head the family court division in 1994. Two years later, he became chief trial attorney and then, in 1999, was named chief assistant prosecutor by Cherry. In 2004, Cotter launched an unsuccessful campaign for one of two vacant Berrien County Trial Court judgeships. Cotter, who is active in a number of local organizations, was awarded the Edgar A. Guest Masonic Award for distinguished community service in 1995.

He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and earned his law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1985.

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