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News

Poer takes oath as county's new prosecutor

Friday, February 29, 2008 11:47 PM EST

— Poer replaces Irving Shaw Jr., who has retired after a 47-year career in the county prosecutor's office.

By Dennis Pelham

Daily Telegram Staff Writer

ADRIAN — Jonathan Poer raised his hand Friday in a circuit courtroom to take the oath of office as Lenawee County's prosecuting attorney.



"This is a distinct pleasure. Thirty years ago I hired Jon as an assistant," said Lenawee County Circuit Judge Harvey A. Koselka, a former county prosecutor, before administering the oath.

Jonathan Poer is sworn in Friday as the new Lenawee County prosecutor. Poer is replacing Irving Shaw, who is retiring after 47 years with the prosecutor's office. — Telegram photo by Vicki Schmucker

"Any credit, or blame, goes to you," Poer joked after Kolselka completed the ceremony conducted before an audience of family, friends, court employees and the entire staff of the prosecutor's office. He officially took office today as the retirement of Irving Shaw Jr. went into effect after midnight. Shaw retired after a 47-year career in the county prosecutor's office.

Poer said he is excited about taking over management of the county prosecutor's office.

"It's certainly going to be a challenge," he said. He thanked Shaw in front of the audience for his support over the years they worked together and promised to try to follow the example Shaw set as a dedicated county official.

"I'm looking forward to working with law enforcement. And I'm looking forward to working with the public," Poer said. Dealing with citizens is an important part of the job, he said.

"That's part of the prosecutors' duty, to try to make things right when they go wrong," Poer said.

Eight assistants on the prosecutors' staff were also administered new oaths of office because of the change in leadership. Frank Riley was sworn in separately to fill the chief assistant position vacated by Poer.

The staff of assistants is one of the strengths of the office, Poer said. Several of the attorneys have been assistant prosecutors for

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S&P 500	1310.23	(-1.59%)
AMEX	2294.95	(-1.17%)
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Crude Oil	100.10	(-2.29%)
30YR Yield	4.44	(+0.76%)

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more than 20 years.

“That kind of experience is invaluable,” Poer said. “They’re committed to what they do. They’re serious about it.”

Poer was appointed on Feb. 11 by the county’s two circuit judges to complete Shaw’s term through the remainder of the year. He has also filed as a Republican candidate for office in this year’s elections.

In announcing the appointment, Koselka and Judge Timothy P. Pickard issued a statement praising Poer’s experience and knowledge. “He is respected by peers and co-workers, and his appointment as prosecuting attorney has been supported by each and every attorney in the prosecutor’s office,” the statement said. “His reputation is that of an honest, hard-working prosecutor who is always prepared.”

Poer was hired as an assistant prosecutor in 1978, a year after earning his juris doctor degree from the University of Detroit School of Law. He was appointed chief appellate prosecutor in 1994 where he has been responsible for researching and handling appeals from the county’s district and circuit courts to the Michigan Supreme Court.

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