

Judges tap new Greene County Leader

By Cara Host, Staff writer chost@observer-reporter.com

WAYNESBURG - Greene County judges picked Waynesburg attorney Charles Morris among a crowded field of applicants vying to replace four-term County Commissioner Dave Coder.

Coder resigned last month after he accepted the position of deputy district director for U.S. Rep. Mark Critz. It was up to Greene County Court to determine who would fill the remainder of Coder's term.

Twenty-five people sent letters of interest to the court and on Wednesday, Judges William Nalitz and Farley Toothman appointed Morris to the seat. A swearing-in ceremony has not been scheduled yet, but it will take place in the near future, according to court officials.

It is not Morris' first foray into county politics. He served as Greene County district attorney in the 1980s.

"Since the very beginning of my career, I've been interested in county government," Morris said when reached by telephone Wednesday. "I think I have a lot to offer the county."

Morris, a partner with the law firm Pollock Morris LLC, said he doesn't have a set agenda of what he wants to accomplish as commissioner. Instead, he said he plans to simply be attentive to the needs of Greene County residents.

He will join fellow Democrat Pam Snyder, the chairwoman of the board, and Republican Archie Trader.

"Commissioner Trader and I are pleased to hear that Chuck has been appointed," Snyder said in a prepared statement. "We want to congratulate him and wish him well. He has a long history of serving Greene County and we look forward to a positive working relationship as we strive together to serve the residents of Greene County."

Morris will serve as commissioner through 2011 and if he wants to keep the job, he will have to seek election next year. However, the longtime attorney said he has not decided whether he will be a candidate.

Morris will continue his law practice while he serves as commissioner.

Morris was elected district attorney in 1979. He served two terms before deciding not to seek re-election in 1987. His future law partner, David Pollock, replaced him in the post.

Morris, a lifelong resident of Greene County, graduated from Carmichaels Area High School in 1967. He earned his bachelor's degree from University of Notre Dame and his law degree from Duquesne University.

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Morris Named New Greene County Commissioner

The Greene County Court on Wednesday named Attorney Chuck Morris as the new county commissioner to replace Dave Coder.

Coder resigned last month to accept a position with U.S. Representative Mark Critz, D-Johnstown. Morris was appointed to serve the rest of Coder's term, which will end January 2, 2012.

County Judges William Nalitz and Farley Toothman selected Morris from among 25 people who sent letters expressing interest in the commissioner's post.