



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioners Hire New County Attorney

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners today appointed Rickey L. Moorefield as the new county attorney effective Jan. 1, 2010. Moorefield, who is currently the county manager and county attorney in Sampson County, worked as the assistant county attorney in Cumberland County from October 2006 to April 2007. His annual salary will be \$164,000.

The commissioners began their search for a new county attorney after the death in July of Grainger Barrett, who was the county's chief legal counsel for 10 years.

Moorefield has been with Sampson County since May 2007 as the county attorney. He took on the additional duties as county manager in February 2009. He has also served as county attorney in Macon and Alamance Counties. He worked in private practice in Graham and was the manager and general counsel for two North Carolina partnerships, Ulmer Limited Partnership and Ulmer Associates, which developed commercial real estate in Beaufort County, S.C.

“We think we are getting a real gem in you since you have served where we sit,” said Jeannette Council, the board chairman. Moorefield is a former county commissioner in Alamance County.

Moorefield received his bachelor's degree in economics and his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He holds a master's degree in public administration from the UNC-Greensboro.

The county's legal department has seven staff positions: a county attorney, deputy attorney, staff attorney, legal assistant, two paralegals and one office support personnel. The department provides legal services to the board of commissioners, county manager's office and county department heads. The office defends litigation on behalf of the county, including litigation against the county, bankruptcy, foreclosures and other claims, and commences legal actions on behalf of the county.

In other personnel matters, the board announced that on Dec. 1, Phyllis Jones, the staff attorney II in the office, will begin serving as the interim county attorney until Moorefield starts work in January. Deputy County Attorney Harvey Raynor is stepping down from that position on Nov. 30.

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