



PRESS RELEASE
Contact: Laura Donnell
502-647-7803

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 30, 2006

Donnell Announces Campaign for Commonwealth's Attorney

Stresses need for efficient, innovative office to achieve safer communities

SHELBYVILLE, KY – Laura Donnell, Assistant Shelby County Attorney, recently filed to run for 53rd Circuit Commonwealth's Attorney, representing Anderson, Shelby and Spencer counties.

“Our citizens deserve an effective prosecutor who has a well-developed plan that will not only meet the criminal challenges facing our community, but also help prevent those challenges from escalating,” Donnell said.

Donnell, a career prosecutor, outlined three objectives that would be achieved through her plan for a more effective prosecutor's office: safer communities, a more efficient process and timely justice for victims.

To increase safety for all citizens, Donnell proposes to fully confront the illegal drug and drug-related offenses, which comprise a large percentage of all crimes committed, and to vigorously prosecute tough cases, such as crimes against children.

“We should follow law enforcement efforts with aggressive prosecution to keep criminals off the street,” Donnell explained. “But it's also time we looked at innovative, proven programs that are being used to successfully reduce crime in other communities.”

She further explained that all cases deserve equal attention, and that even though certain types of criminal cases may be difficult to prosecute, those are often the most important to bring to closure.

“As to efficiency and timely justice, we can't allow criminal cases to sit on a desk for years; I believe in the axiom that ‘justice delayed is justice denied,’” Donnell said. “By ensuring that cases are moved through the system in a timely manner, it provides closure for victims and safer communities for everyone.”

Donnell added that when trying criminal cases, time is essential because memories fade, witnesses move and the event hangs over the community. She also said that needlessly extending cases over two or three years adds to a county's financial burden, such as housing an inmate at the local jail while awaiting trial.

State Senator Gary Tapp said, “I know Laura Donnell will work hard as Commonwealth's Attorney to fully prosecute criminals, working in conjunction with state lawmakers and law enforcement officials to help protect our citizens. Laura offers new energy and fresh ideas that will greatly improve the prosecutor's office.”

Donnell has been a practicing attorney for 13 years, including 10 years as a prosecutor. She earned her bachelor's degree in business from the University of Louisville in 1988 and her law degree from the University of Kentucky in 1993.

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PAID FOR BY LAURA DONNELL FOR COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY, STEVE MEADOR TREASURER.

continued from Donnell, Jan. 30, 2006

Donnell has received specialized training at the National Symposium on Child Abuse, sponsored by the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) in Huntsville, Alabama, a recognized leader in training for the special needs of victims of sexual and physical abuse. Additionally, Donnell has completed advanced training from the Kentucky Prosecutor's Institute. She is a member of the National District Attorney's Association.

A native Kentuckian, Donnell was born and raised in Nicholasville and graduated from Jessamine County High School. She and her husband Bill, who is also an attorney, chose Shelby County in which to raise the children, Sarah and Clark. They are members of the United Methodist Church in Shelbyville. She is a member of the Shelbyville Rotary Club. For enjoyment, she prefers to spend time with her children and to hunt with the whole family, including their two dogs, Lady and Midge.

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Please Note: A headshot of Laura Donnell (in high-res. JPEG file format) will be e-mailed to the *Sentinel-News* no later than noon on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2006.