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# Adams to fill in for Osborne on bench

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Kevin A. Adams has been appointed special judge for Leflore County Court.

The state Supreme Court announced Tuesday that Adams will "handle cases and hold court" while Leflore County Judge Solomon Osborne serves a 180-day suspension from the bench.

"I'm certainly honored to have received the appointment from the Supreme Court," Adams said Thursday afternoon. "I'm confident I'll be able to run the county well."

The appointment will last the duration of Osborne's suspension, which is scheduled to end Oct. 7 after beginning April 10.

During that time, Adams will retain his position as court administrator for the 7th Chancery Court District, a position he has held for seven years.

"My duties as special judge will be my first priority, but I'll also do everything I can to keep the chancery court running smoothly," Adams said.

Osborne, who was appointed county judge in 2001 and was re-elected in 2002 and 2006, was officially suspended without pay on April 10 by the state Supreme Court.

The punishment stems from Osborne's actions during an attempted repossession of a vehicle in 2002. According to court documents, Osborne chased Chris Reed, a Greenwood repossession agent, as Reed attempted to repossess a Mercedes belonging to the judge's family members. An altercation ensued and Greenwood police officers were called to the scene. The episode lasted 45 minutes to an hour.

The Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance, after reviewing the incident, recommended to the Supreme Court that Osborne be suspended for 90 days without pay. The high court ultimately doubled that amount of time in its decision. The move will cost Osborne \$48,000 in salary.

As special judge, Adams will earn roughly the same amount Osborne forfeited.

Adams, 35, is a 1990 graduate of Greenwood High. He attended Millsaps College before earning a law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1998. He served one year as a law clerk in the 4th Circuit Court District before going into private practice as an attorney.

Leflore County Chancellor Jon Barnwell swore Adams in Thursday afternoon in Robinsonville.

Barnwell was there attending the Mississippi Trial and Appellate Judges Spring Conference, while Adams was attending the Mississippi Court Administrators Spring Conference. The conferences are held twice each year.

Adams was chosen Thursday as president of the Mississippi Court Administrators Association just before he was sworn in as special judge.

At the ceremony were Adams' wife, the former Tammy Clolinger, and their four children, Justin, Jonathan, Jack and Anne Hall.

"My parents, through their lives, taught me the importance of public service, and I'm proud to be able to follow their example through the appointment," Adams said Thursday, shortly after he was sworn in.

Adams' mother, Dr. Ann Adams, was assistant superintendent for Leflore County Schools for many years, and his father, Jackie Adams, was an administrator in the same school system.

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