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Mudge takes oath as judge

Carries on family tradition

December 06, 2010 9:55 PM

By SANFORD J. SCHMIDT

The Telegraph

EDWARDSVILLE - Bill Mudge, who was sworn in as a circuit judge Monday, is not the first Judge Mudge in the family, nor the first to be involved in Democratic politics or public office, and not the first lawyer in the family.

"My grandfather, Dick H. Mudge, was a circuit judge and mayor of Edwardsville," Bill Mudge said in a brief interview after his swearing-in ceremony Monday.

He keeps as a souvenir a poster from Dick Mudge's 1933 election campaign.

Bill Mudge's father, John, was an attorney for the city of Edwardsville and an assistant state's attorney. John Mudge died at a young age in a traffic crash while Bill's mother still was pregnant with him.

Bill Mudge's stepfather is Jim Gorman, a longtime attorney practicing in Edwardsville, and his brother, Steve Mudge, is a civil trial attorney.

Brother Bob Mudge is a videographer for court procedures, and brother Greg Mudge is a longtime political activist, public relations man and economic developer.

Sister Ann Gorman just won a seat on the Madison County Board and was sworn in a few hours after Bill Mudge took office.

Mudge has been a lawyer for 24 years, including 15 years in private practice and two years as assistant state's attorney, as well as a brief stint as a public defender. He served the last eight years as state's attorney.

He graduated from Saint Louis University Law School.

Chief 3rd Circuit Judge Ann Callis presided at Mudge's ceremony and gave him the oath of office. Mudge was elected to fill the slot left open by former judge Dan Stack, who decided not to run again.

Stack, who attended the ceremony Monday, said he is going on to become a trustee of a trust set up to settle asbestos-related claims against bankrupt defendants. He will be making decisions regarding the Flintkote Trust.

Just hours before Bill Mudge was sworn in as a judge, John Gibbons of Edwardsville was sworn in to replace him as state's attorney.

Chief Criminal Judge Charles Romani swore in Gibbons during a morning ceremony at the Madison County Administration Building.

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