

Courts

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Judge Cottle Is Sworn In

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Sentinel Staff Writer

Chris Cottle was sworn in as the county's newest superior court judge Thursday afternoon with a solemn pledge to be "the kind of judge the people of this county deserve."

Cottle, the former district attorney for the county, steps into the spot vacated by retiring Superior Court Judge Charles Franich.

He said he hoped he would be able to live up to the qualities of patience and hard work exhibited by Franich throughout his years on the bench.

In a ceremony punctuated by jokes and a warning from Franich that Cottle's new office was going to be "a kind of a hole in the wall" on the county center's fifth floor, Cottle expressed delight and happiness in the new appointment.

He thanked the local judges for "personally extending themselves to me" when he was a young lawyer in the

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Superior Court Judge Chris Cottle, right, received hearty congratulations from colleagues Judge Harry Brauer, left, and Judge Donald May, shortly after being sworn in to his new post. Judge Charles Franich, who is retiring and whose place Cottle fills, presided over the ceremony. Cottle vowed to "be the kind of judge the people of this county deserve."

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county, and thanked those who worked with him in the district attorney's office.

He explained also his beliefs in the judicial system, noting that he believed in punishment. "I think it has a place." But, also believes in redemption because he has seen convicted criminals become hard-working, good citizens.

And, he said he believed in probation, as long as it wasn't held over someone's head.

Cottle, wearing his new black robes, said he felt "very committed" to the kind of government in the United States and the way the court system

works.

"I am committed to the fact the court system in the United States is a most important part of the whole constitutional system," he said.

"I look forward to working as a part of that institution."

He also had praise for Franich, who officiated over the swearing-in ceremony.

"I have made a lot of mistakes," said Cottle. "And, I've tried not to make them twice. I'm sure I'll make a few from the bench. Hopefully, not twice."

Cottle's wife, Margy, and his son, Chris, watched from the side as Cottle was sworn in.

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