



Department of Justice

R. Booth Goodwin II, United States Attorney
Southern District of West Virginia

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GOODWIN TAKES HELM AS U.S. ATTORNEY

Top Federal Prosecutor Pledges Fight Against Corruption, Child Predators, and Drug Violence

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – R. Booth Goodwin II was formally sworn in today as the new United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia, pledging an aggressive fight against crime in his district. As U.S. Attorney, Goodwin is the top federal law enforcement officer in the southern half of the state. He leads an office of nearly 30 attorneys responsible for prosecuting federal crimes, which range from public corruption to civil rights violations to drug distribution to corporate fraud. The office also represents the United States in civil court cases.

Goodwin promised to step up the fight against southern West Virginia's most serious crime problems: prescription drug distribution, violent out-of-state drug dealers, child pornography, corporate fraud, workplace safety crimes, and political corruption. "Justice is the heart of America," Goodwin said. "People who play by the rules, respect their neighbors, and contribute to their communities should be safe from criminals who attack those values."

"The strong shouldn't be able to take from the weak," Goodwin continued. "Our most vulnerable fellow citizens should be protected from exploitation. Workers shouldn't be forced to earn their living in illegal, unsafe conditions. And everyone—rich or poor, man or woman, old or young, elected official or citizen, from the CEO to the minimum wage earner—should play by the same set of rules."

Senator Jay Rockefeller spoke at the ceremony and praised Goodwin's selection as U.S. Attorney. "Booth possesses a passion and uncommon determination that make him indispensable to everyone he meets and works with. I saw it in him as a young man and it shines as brightly as ever today."

"The Southern District of West Virginia gains a U.S. Attorney whose talent is matched only by his heart. This new responsibility comes after nine years of fighting crime, targeting corruption and fraud, and protecting our communities as Assistant U.S. Attorney. For Booth, this is the next step in a career of public service—we mark another milestone along an admirable journey."

Senator Robert C. Byrd also applauded Goodwin's selection. "I was proud to have recommended Booth Goodwin as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District," Byrd said. "His confirmation and appointment is not a day too early. There are a variety of investigations taking place which require immediate attention—including the recent mine disaster in Montcoal which took the lives of 29 West Virginia coal miners. I believe the people of the southern coalfields deserve the competent and

vigilant representation that Mr. Goodwin will bring to the table. He has some very important work to do, and the Southern District is entitled to the resources they need to see their interests protected.”

H. Marshall Jarrett, a top official in the U.S. Department of Justice and a Bluefield native, presented Goodwin with his presidential commission. Jarrett, a graduate of the West Virginia University College of Law, began his career with the Justice Department in 1975 as an Assistant United States Attorney in Charleston and has risen to fill several key posts in the Department's upper leadership. These include Associate Deputy Attorney General, head of the Office of Professional Responsibility, and his current position, Director of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys.

Today’s ceremony follows a private swearing-in conducted on May 27, 2010, the day President Barack Obama signed Goodwin’s commission as United States Attorney. President Obama nominated Goodwin for the position in January 2010, after Goodwin was recommended by both Senator Byrd and Senator Rockefeller.

“I am deeply grateful to President Obama, Senator Byrd, and Senator Rockefeller for this opportunity,” Goodwin said. “I am a West Virginian, born, raised, and forever, and I am honored to be able to serve my country in the state that I love.”

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