



Gov. Mary Fallin taps Patrick Wyrick to serve on the Oklahoma Supreme Court

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By Barbara Hoberock Tulsa World

OKLAHOMA CITY — Gov. Mary Fallin on Thursday tapped Patrick Wyrick to serve on the nine-member Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Wyrick, 35, has served as solicitor general in Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt's office since 2011. The Atoka native is the appointee for Oklahoma's 2nd Judicial District.

He succeeds Steven Taylor, who retired from the bench last year.

The appointment is Fallin's first to the state's highest court for civil matters.

According to Fallin's office, Wyrick has represented the state before the U.S. and Oklahoma supreme courts, authored attorney general opinions and served as a legal adviser to state officials.

Before working for Pruitt, Wyrick was an associate attorney at the GableGotwals law firm and served as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge James Payne in the Eastern District, based in Muskogee.

He earned a bachelor's in sociology/criminology from the University of Oklahoma in 2004, and his juris doctorate from OU's college of law in 2007.

Wyrick called the appointment the honor of a lifetime.

"I will continue to work hard and do my best to serve the people of this great state," he said. "I have committed myself to public service, and my years as Oklahoma solicitor

general have offered me the opportunity to routinely litigate cases before the Supreme Court. I am uniquely familiar with the high court's jurisprudence."

Fallin picked Wyrick from a list of three candidates sent to her by the Judicial Nominating Commission. The governor must choose from those three.

Applicants were required to be 30 or older and be a practicing attorney or judge for at least five years.

Wyrick is well-positioned to tackle the difficult issues before the Oklahoma Supreme Court, Fallin said.

"He has litigated several significant constitutional law cases involving almost every frequently litigated provision in our state constitution," she said. "I have confidence he will perform his new duties with integrity and professionalism."

Pruitt praised the selection.

"As a constitutional scholar well-versed in both state and federal law, Patrick will bring a robust judicial philosophy to his work on the Court," Pruitt said. "More than a superb lawyer, I have come to know Patrick over the years as a dear friend and trusted counselor. His wisdom, compassion, and integrity are unparalleled among the many public servants with whom I've had the pleasure of working."

Wyrick and his wife, Jamie, have three children.

The 2nd Judicial District includes McIntosh, Sequoyah, Pittsburg, Haskell, Latimer, Le Flore, Johnston, Atoka, Pushmataha, Marshall, Bryan, Choctaw and McCurtain counties.

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