



**Kentucky
County
Attorneys
Association,
Inc.**

For Immediate Release

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County Attorney Willie Roberts honored for excellence in special prosecutions

Rowan County Attorney Willie Roberts was honored for his work regarding special prosecutions justice during the Kentucky County Attorneys Association's (KCAA) Winter Conference in Lexington, on Feb. 21.

Roberts, who received the KCAA 2008 Special Prosecutions Award, was the only prosecutor in the state so honored for special prosecutions by the KCAA this year. Roberts also was honored in 2006 for his work in the juvenile justice arena.

With special prosecutions, the attorney general appoints an existing county attorney to handle cases outside his or her normal caseload because the existing county attorney has a conflict of interest, there is no county attorney, or for other reasons that may prevent a county attorney from handling a case.

Hutchison-Corbin said the awards committee considered several qualities of county attorneys across the state, including caseload, case type, efficiency and county location.

In Roberts' situation, he was appointed to handle all cases in Bath County for six months. In addition, he continued his full caseload in Rowan County and was appointed special prosecutor in cases in several other counties.

“When a prosecutor is asked to perform not only his job, but that of another for an extended period of time, it takes an extremely efficient and dedicated public servant to handle that type of pressure,” Hutchison-Corbin said. “Mr. Roberts certainly has gone above and beyond the call of duty in performing his duties to this state.”

Roberts, who has served as Rowan County attorney since 2003, said, “This was not an assignment I asked for, however, I was honored at the confidence General Stumbo showed when asked me to take on the extra duties. It was difficult and I alone did not earn this award. I must share this honor with my staff in Bath and Rowan Counties, Judges Bill Mains, Beth Maze, Bill Lane and Don Blair for their understanding while shouldering the extra load. I also appreciate the understanding of the Rowan Fiscal Court and citizens of Rowan County for their support during this time. I cannot fail to mention the help received by Assistant Rowan County Attorneys Cecil Watkins and Gary Salyers. We all put in a lot of overtime without any reward. This Award certainly goes a long way to reward those efforts.”

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