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Judge Rob Mayer Administers Oath to Jon-Sawyer C. Smith at Stoddard County Courthouse

APRIL 18TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Judge Rob Mayer Administers Oath to Jon-Sawyer C. Smith at Stoddard County Courthouse

Dexter, MO - Dexter native Jon-Sawyer C. Smith took the oath of admission during a swearing in ceremony by 35th Circuit Judge Rob Mayer who administered the oath at the Stoddard County Courthouse on Friday, April 16, 2021 at precisely 3:00 p.m. Smith recently passed his bar and is officially a member of the Missouri Bar Association. He will now practice in Dexter at the Mayer Law Office.

Jon-Sawyer C. Smith is a Dexter native and graduated from DHS in 2010. He is the son of Pam and Kip Smith of Dexter and is married to Leeza Edmundson of Poplar Bluff this past September. Leeza graduated from nursing school at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2019 and is an RN, BSN in the emergency room at Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center. She is currently pursuing a Masters degree at Maryville University in St. Louis and plans for a career in medical aesthetics as a Nurse Practitioner. In the days to come, Sawyer looks forward to spending lots of time together with family. He is also a proud lifetime supporter of the National Rifle Association and enjoys "church-going" in both Stoddard and Butler Counties. His other interests include, but are not limited to his pets, the arts, hunting/fishing, public speaking, and traveling.

"Sawyer" Smith received academic and athletic scholarships to attend Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida where he graduated in 2014 earning a Bachelor Science - Finance degree. During his time at PBA, he played baseball under Coach Gary Carter (MLB Hall of Fame '03), and interned with U.S. Congressman Allen

West (R) and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R). He also founded and led the Young Americans for Freedom chapter on campus; and was awarded the University's "Lead By Example" recognition by the school president. For roughly one year thereafter, Sawyer worked in the Washington D.C. metro area, at The Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara, California, and on college campuses throughout the country on behalf of Young Americans Foundation to advance conservative thoughts and values as a program officer.

In 2017, Sawyer completed graduate school in Waco, Texas earning a Master Arts - Journalism degree from Baylor University. While at BU, he worked as a freelance political reporter / writer / videographer and also as a teaching assistant to his department professors. Sawyer's interview-article titled 'American Sniper - Widow Enters GOP Political Arena,' which featured Taya Kyle (widow of slain Navy Seal Chris Kyle), was published and circulated by Newsmax Magazine. In 2020, Sawyer finished law school and earned a Juris Doctorate degree from Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, Mississippi. While at MC, he served as Federalist Society president and focused his studies in the practice areas of criminal, civil, and constitutional law. Sawyer gained legal experience during law school working inside the Missouri State Public Defender's Office and alongside his late father-in-law, Poplar Bluff attorney, Jasper Edmundson.

Now, a decade later, Sawyer has returned home to his roots in the Southeast Missouri Bootheel. Sawyer was admitted to The Missouri Bar in 2021 and is authorized by the Missouri Supreme Court to practice law. He is an Associate of Dustin L. Mayer - Managing Partner at Mayer Law Office in Dexter. His areas of practice include criminal defense, plaintiff's personal injury, estate planning, business law, and family law. Sawyer also belongs in membership to the American Bar Association and American Agricultural Law Association. In the near future, Sawyer plans to travel to Jefferson City to be sworn for admittance into the Bar for the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Missouri.

"In middle school, I became infatuated with reading John Grisham novels. I read them all in short order. I actually came home from school one day and told my parents that I wanted to be a lawyer. They made me write it down on notebook paper and we still have it today. That was 15 or more years ago. The evidence shows that my accomplishment is shared with my mom and dad. They deserve credit for my story being possible."

"My legal career actually began in high school when Rob Mayer allowed me to answer the phone and file some papers as a part-time job at his law office. I was observing him and also John Ringer and Brad Jarrell. It's interesting how things have come full-circle with me going to work now for Dustin Mayer and then Judge Mayer swearing me in, here, over a decade later. In fact, Mrs. Nancy Mayer was my fourth grade teacher. Our

families just have a lot of history and I'm so grateful to all the Mayers."

"I met my wife Leeza in early 2017 and I enrolled in law school that summer. I knew from our first date that she would be the one. And I was right about that. She has stood with me through my hardest challenges in life. The lowest of lows and the highest of highs. I attribute a lot of whatever success I've had in recent years, to her. We are so happy being newly-weds and pursuing our dreams together."

"I simply love my community, my state, and my country. And I will serve them all with ethics and zeal in the legal profession. May God always bless our nation and keep the U.S. Constitution the law of our land."

"More than anything, Jesus Christ is my strength. I am completed by his grace and I will honor him forever the best that I can."

Amos 5:24 "Let Justice Roll!"

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Dexter Police Dept Honors Retiring Chief Trevor Pulley at Luncheon

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Dexter Police Dept Honors Retiring Chief Trevor Pulley at Luncheon

Dexter, MO - Newly appointed Dexter Police Chief Hank Trout held a luncheon on Friday, April 16, 2021 for the Dexter Police Department.

Randy Kinder Excavating provided the meal to the police officers and the food was catered by Dhafer's Steakhouse & Fine Dining in Dexter.

Newly appointment Chief Hank Trout presented retiring Chief Trevor Pulley with a plaque.

"I want to start by saying congratulations to Trevor Pulley, as he has now been appointment the new Dexter City Administrator," stated Chief Hank Trout.

"I also want to thank him for having the confidence in me to lead this department, thank you Trevor," continued Trout.

Chief Trout described Trevor as dedicated, hard-working, professional, intelligent, confent, self motivated, and a family man.

"If you strive to be a good officer or leader, you can look at Trevor's character and his work ethic and if you work as hard as he does, you will be successful," stated Trout.

"Trevor Pulley had a vision to make the Dexter Police Department better. He did more in the past three years than most have done in the past twenty years."

He upgraded the computers and made sure the new records management system was up and running with the help of Josh Benton. He updated the Dispatch Center and he had the new squad room added so the officers had the room needed to help make their daily tasks achievable. He helped build the new Evidence Room where and having a conference/Training Room available as well.

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Corey Martinez, Named 2020 Dexter Police Officer of the Year

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Dexter, MO - Newly appointed Dexter Police Chief Hank Trout held a luncheon on Friday, April 16, 2021 for the Dexter Police Department.

Randy Kinder Excavating provided the meal to the police officers and the food was catered by Dhafer's Steakhouse & Fine Dining in Dexter.

The 2020 Police Officer of the Year was announced during the luncheon.

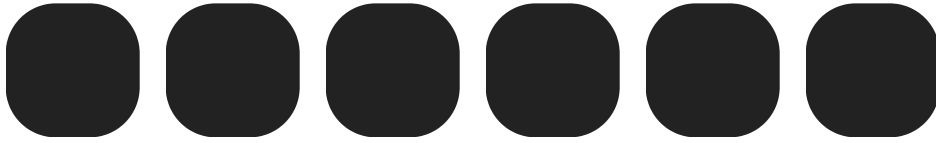
"This officer has shown an aggressive proactive approach which has led to numerous drug arrests over the past year," commented Chief Trout.

"With his dedication to keeping our community safe, it is our honor to give this award," continued Trout.

The 2020 Dexter Police Department Officer of the Year is Corey Martinez.

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Brittany Bryant, Named 2020 Dexter PD Communications Officer of the Year

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[Brittany Bryant, Named 2020 Dexter PD Communications Officer of the Year](#)

Dexter, MO - Newly appointed Dexter Police Chief, Hank Trout, held a luncheon on Friday, April 16, 2021 for the Dexter Police Department.

Randy Kinder Excavating provided the meal to the police officers and the food was catered by Dhafer's Steakhouse & Fine Dining in Dexter.

The Dexter Police Department 2020 Communication Officer of the Year was presented during the luncheon.

"This dispatcher has shown a willingness to learn and she has demonstrated that she has the skill set to become a great dispatcher," commented Trout.

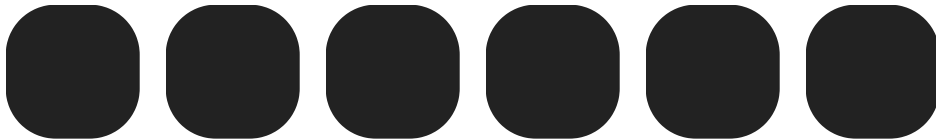
"We appreciate your hard work and dedication to our department," he continued.

The 2020 Communication Officer of the Year was awarded to Brittany Bryant.

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Dexter Elks Host 2021 Student of the Year Banquet

APRIL 13TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter Elks Host 2021 Student of the Year Banquet

Dexter, MO - The Dexter Elks hosted their annual Student of the Year Banquet on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Each year the Dexter Elks choose two students to represent seven Stoddard County Schools each month. The students along with their families and high school counselors are invited to a meal prepared and provided by the Elks Lodge members.

Dexter Elks Student of the Month/Year Co-chairperson Dennis Carmack lead the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer to open the banquet.

The keynote speaker was David Wyman of Essex.

Pictured are the Students of the Month (not all students were able to attend because of sports and other obligations):

Representing Bell City: Mia Dembowski and Austin Hunt

Representing Bloomfield: Abigail Pyland and Parker Heaton

Representing Dexter: Layne Medler and Damon Stearns

Representing Bernie: Sarah Ellenburg and Landon Zoll

Representing Richland: Shelby Mayabb and Devin Duffie

Representing Advance: Nyah Wilson and Landon Dailey

Representing Puxico: Madison McMeans and Caleb Robinson

The female Student of the Year is Sarah Ellenburg of Bernie and the male Student of the Year is Austin Hunt of Bell City.

Photo submitted.

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