

By LARRY PHILLIPS • Leader & Times Governor Sam Brownback announced Monday he has appointed an attorney from Liberal to the 26th Judicial District of the State of Kansas.

Linda Gilmore will take the seat vacated by judge Kim Schroeder who was recently appointed to the Kansas Court of Appeals.

Gilmore, 44, has been a resident of Liberal nearly 19 years.

“I grew up on a farm with my mom, dad and two sisters,” she said Monday. “After I graduated from University of Kansas law school in 1994, I moved to Liberal and practiced law with Miller & Diepenbrock, P.A., from 1994 through 2000.

“In 2000, I joined Jason Maxwell and Grant Shellenberger and opened the law firm Gilmore, Shellenberger & Maxwell, P.A.,” Gilmore added. Gilmore’s 18 years of experience has covered a vast array of legal issues: Numerous jury trials as plaintiff’s counsel and as counsel for criminal defendants, preparing direct appeal briefs and arguing cases before the Kansas Court of Appeals, litigated numerous civil matters including: Wrongful death litigation, car accident injury litigation, property damage claims against insurance companies.

She has negotiated and litigated numerous family law cases including divorce, child custody, child support modifications and divorce cases, served as Assistant Seward County Counsel and researched county legal issues. Advised Seward County Commissioners, prepared Seward County personnel policies and procedures – just to name a few.

That experience also impressed the governor.

“Linda’s experience as a litigation attorney will serve Kansans of the 26th Judicial District well,” Brownback said. “Her years living in Liberal and working in the Seward County Counsel give her the knowledge needed to perform her duties.”

Gilmore also feels her background will be advantageous in her new responsibilities.

“I believe I am qualified for the district judge position based upon my knowledge and working experience in the court room and because of my depth and breadth of knowledge concerning a variety of legal issues,” she said.

Gilmore received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in Political Science and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas.

Gilmore has been married to Darin Gilmore for 13 years, and they have three children; Justin,

27, Chicago, Audrey, 11, and Carson, 9. She is also involved in the younger childrens' school activities. She has been on the MacArthur Elementary Site Council since 2010, as well as on the 4-H Parent Committee, also 2010 to present.

She said family life and dedication are very important factors in her career.

"I have a strong foundation in my marriage and my family," Gilmore said. "I believe in hard work, honesty, preparation and a commitment to help the people who have trusted me to assist them."

Gilmore is ready to jump into the next chapter in her life.

"I am very excited about this opportunity and the new challenges I will face in my legal career," she said.

The state's 105 counties are organized into 31 Judicial Districts. The district courts serve as the trial courts for the state, overseeing all civil and criminal cases. The 26th District covers the entirety of Grant, Haskell, Morton, Seward, Stanton and Stevens counties.