

STANT DISTRICT

NEW JOB



STAR-TELEGRAM/JOYCE MARSHALL

FAMILIAR FACE OFF TO DALLAS

Dallas County's new district attorney taps former Tarrant County prosecutor Terri Moore, above, to be his first assistant district attorney. Moore has tried twice to unseat Tarrant County District Attorney Tim Curry.

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EX-ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Moore named to job in office of Dallas DA

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■ Terri Moore will continue living in Fort Worth and doesn't rule out a future run for office.

By AMAN BATHEJA
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Just six weeks after losing her bid to become district attorney of Tarrant County, Terri Moore has been named first assistant district attorney for Dallas County.

Newly elected Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins announced the appointment Tuesday morning, along with appointing Dallas County defense lawyer Kevin Brooks as his trial bureau chief, according to a written statement.

Moore served as an assistant district attorney in Tarrant County from 1987 to 1997, including two years as chief prosecutor and four years as deputy chief of the criminal division. She has most recently worked as a defense attorney in Fort Worth.

Moore tried to unseat long-serving Tarrant County District Attorney Tim Curry last month and in 2002. The most recent race was one of the most expensive and closely watched local races this year. Moore drew 47 percent of the vote to Curry's 53 percent.

Watkins, who beat veteran Dallas County prosecutor Toby Shook as part of a county-wide Democratic sweep in the November election, praised his new hires in a written statement.

"Ms. Moore and Mr. Brooks will be excellent additions to our team at the District Attorney's office," Watkins said. "Their combined record of accomplishment in the courtroom will no doubt restore integrity to the DA's office and provide a safer Dallas County."

Watkins also confirmed that Shook, who has been a part of the county's district

attorney's office for over 20 years, had resigned.

Rumors about Moore taking a job in Dallas had been swirling in local political circles since shortly after Election Day.

Moore said Watkins approached her about the position. She said hearing Watkins' plans for the office persuaded her to take the job.

"I feel very comfortable with his vision. I think he's motivated to do the right things for the right reasons," Moore said.

Both Watkins' and Moore's performance will be closely watched around the state. A report released by the Federal Bureau of Investigations on Monday said Dallas remains the most crime-ridden large city in the country.

"That's one of the reasons I wanted to do this, is they have a tremendous problem in Dallas County with violent crimes," Moore said.

Moore addressed critics who say that Dallas County too often convicts 'innocent people. She said several policies Watkins plans to implement will tackle that problem, especially plans to institute an open file policy like the kind the Tarrant County's district attorney's office has had for years.

Despite her new job in Dallas, Moore said she plans to continue living in Fort Worth. She would not rule out running for Tarrant County district attorney or another office in the future.

Moore and Brooks will begin their jobs Jan. 1, the day Watkins is sworn in as district attorney.



MOORE