



Superior Court Clerk Bev Little won't seek re-election

MARCH 01, 2014 7:28 PM • BY [BARBARA LABOE](#)

Cowlitz County Superior Court Clerk Bev Little announced Friday she won't seek re-election this fall, saying it's time to retire to travel and spend time with family.

Little, 68, also said she believes the next clerk will need more technology skills than she has, noting she often joked she was job security for the county's Information Technology Department. A coming new statewide court system will change how many of the office's day-to-day duties are completed, she noted.

Little, who had recently retired from the clerk's office, ran against incumbent Roni Booth in 2010 on a pledge to re-open the clerk's office to the public. Booth had closed the office's doors, citing budget cuts. The public had to wait in line to talk to clerks through a window, and attorneys had to place documents in a box outside the office.

The Cowlitz County Bar Association sent Little flowers the day the doors reopened.

Little, in a press release, said she and her staff have accomplished her three main goals:

- Keeping the doors open and providing better customer service
- Improving employee morale
- Restoring the offices relations with the bar association and other offices.

Cross-training of employees, though, remains a need, she said.

Little said her staff also made files available online by subscription, hired a company to improve financial collections and converted to a Web-based jury system. She thanked the county's other elected officials for all their help during her tenure.

"There have been a lot of changes, but there is so much more to be done," Little said.

Little runs the clerk's office for Superior Court, which handles the major criminal and civil cases in the county, including staffing courtrooms with clerks during trials and hearings.