



Solicitor Chrissy Adams

Re-Election Announcement Speech

March 17th, 2008

Good Morning/Good Afternoon! And, for all of you of Irish heritage, let me wish a Happy St. Patrick's Day to each of you. While my own family is Greek, I have worn a bit of green to honor the day and avoid, I hope, being pinched.

Thank You – for joining us today. First, I want to say thanks to my husband Eddie and our sons, Gregory and James for all of their love and support. As a wife of a businessman, and certainly as a mother, they are a daily reminder of why what we do and what we must continue to do in the Solicitor's Office is so important.

I also want to thank several others who have taken time out of their busy schedules to stand here today in support of my candidacy and who by their presence I believe show their confidence in our efforts as your Solicitor. Thank you Sheriff, thanks to Rep, to Councilman:

As your solicitor these past three years, I have done my very best to honor the trust the citizens were gracious enough to place in us during the last election.

In that race we focused on providing you the citizen-taxpayers with a more efficient, more effective justice system, one that protects our community from simple petty thieves and also from those who commit the most heinous of crimes. We talked about the importance of this AND at the same time, protecting your pocket books from government waste and inefficiency - - - I am proud to say we have delivered, in many, many ways.

We campaigned on reducing the local jail population attributed to the Solicitor's office because we knew those people could be processed, convicted and incarcerated in the state system much more efficiently. It could. We did, and today the number of those in the local jail over whom we have jurisdiction is down in Anderson from 75% to 49% and in Oconee it's down to 39%.

We talked about improving relations with law enforcement, with other elected officials and with those in the judicial branch – AND WE HAVE by bringing the office into the 21st Century in terms of technology and communications.

We called for a better use of your tax dollars, making better use of technology but also of applying good old fashioned common sense to the job. We saved at least \$50,000 alone by reducing the number of office cars paid for by you down from 9 to 2. All it took was a willingness to accept that the job is both prosecutorial and administrative. We knew it. And WE HAVE DONE JUST THAT.

We called for improving the delivery of justice, of making it swift, effective and efficient. We did this with half the staff and twice the work load of several of our neighboring circuits while having the state's highest rate of conviction, 89% of those who we bring to trial. Our efforts have meant an increased number of defendants convicted in Anderson of 35% and in Oconee of 25%. We knew it could be done. We said it should be done and I am proud to say that we have done it.

We did not do so alone. We have done so with the support of people from all across Oconee and Anderson Counties. We have done so because of the fantastic, seasoned and committed team of attorneys and staff we have assembled representing over 127 years legal expertise and 87 years of prosecutorial experience. With, I might add only minor turnover, which had in fact been a big problem in the past.

We have done so because those who represent those innocent victims of crime have joined with us in our efforts. We have done so because members of the business community have recognized our success and offered their support and confidence. We have done so because we knew it was imperative to recommit the solicitor's office to ensuring a sense of team work with those men and women of law enforcement who risk their lives daily on our streets and in our neighborhoods – We knew it was important, we knew it was missing and we have done so.

Let's be clear: Public service brings with it the honor of the office as well as the opportunity and obligation to regularly make our case for reelection to the voters, to stand before them and let them pass judgment on the job we are doing. It is a challenge we welcome as it gives the chance to tell the story of our success to those who most likely pay little attention to the workings of the 10th Circuit. As I have said before, unless you are a victim or a criminal you probably know very little about the Office of Solicitor, the inner-workings of the actual process, and the mounds of

excessive administrative bureaucracy that sometimes overshadows the real truth: We deal with people, not paper. We deal with facts, not fiction and our goal is to see that those who are guilty are found so, that they serve time or make restitution. It's a complicated system that has unfortunately, led some to play loose with the truth about our successes as well as their own. I know that as this campaign continues we will have the chance to discuss the facts, the issues and the realities of the job of Solicitor. I know because I am the Solicitor and I have worked in this arena for over 14 years. So, I do look forward to discussing the real facts and issues and hope we can do so and not be distracted by what is at best a misrepresentation of the truth. We welcome any challenge, but as a character on an old TV show use to say: Just the facts, mam, just the facts.

Today, I say that we can not, we must not and we will not take a step backwards when only a short while ago we found ourselves so far behind so many. And so my friends, it is with humble appreciation, with a clear purpose and with focus on continuing our progress, of my applying my proven experience, my clear commitment and my conservative principles to this important job, I proudly announce my candidacy for the GOP nomination and for re-election as your 10th Circuit Solicitor.

This community has been my home for the past decade. I know and love its people. I understand the challenges we face and the opportunity we must seize to make Anderson and Oconee counties the best they can be. We welcome this challenge and the opportunity to make our case to the voters. On June 10th, I humbly ask for your vote.