



Linn County NEWS



Contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email: apaul@co.linn.or.us

Phillip Van Leuven is new assistant county attorney

By Alex Paul

Communications Officer

ALBANY — New Linn County Assistant Attorney Phillip Van Leuven is bringing a wealth of experience to his new job — including serving 23 years with the Oregon National Guard — and more than 10 years with the Oregon State Police.

Van Leuven, 40, started working for Linn County in February and says he couldn't be happier so far.

"Gene (Karandy) is great. I can talk to him about anything and right now, I have lots of questions," Van Leuven said. "People in the office have been great."

Born in California, but reared in Alsea, Van Leuven graduated from high school there in 1999, but had already enlisted in the National Guard at age 17.

"I always knew I wanted to go to college and the military made that possible," Van Leuven said.

He started as an enlisted soldier, but later became a commissioned officer and will retire March 15 with the rank of captain. Along the way, he served in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Van Leuven earned a degree in speech communications from Oregon State in 2007 and his law degree from Willamette



Phillip Van Leuven

University in 2021.

He passed the Oregon bar in October and has been waiting on the "right" job since, turning down offers in private practice.

Prior to law school, Van Leuven spent 10 years with OSP, stationed in Albany.

"I am familiar with the Linn County

Sheriff's Office because I was a member of the Interagency Crash Team," Van Leuven said.

Van Leuven's wife, Bessie, is a surgical nurse with Samaritan Health Services and they have three children, Ryan, 23, Carson, 19, and Landon, 13.

"We love to camp, especially at Sunnyside County Park since it's right on the water," Van Leuven said.

He and Landon also enjoy baseball and the family is headed south on spring break for some games.

"I coach a ton of baseball," Van Leuven said of life away from the office.

Van Leuven said he is especially interested in business, real estate and contractual law.

"I also aspire to get into politics down the road," Van Leuven said. "I was a legislative aide to Senator Herman Baertschiger from southern Oregon for two years. I have always been drawn to lead and I want to try to make things better. I would like to leave a good legacy."

Media contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email apaul@co.linn.or.us