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Advanced News Writing

New Clerk of Court

11/11/11

 Theresa Robichaux, newly appointed clerk of court, plans to use her past experience at the Clerk of Courts office to make some necessary improvements to better serve Terrebonne Parish during her term in office.

 Robichaux said that she will come into office as new Clerk of Court on July 1, 2012 succeeding Bobby Boudreaux, who has held the position for 48 years and has worked at the Clerk of Court office for 61 years. The Clerk of Court is the custodian of the public’s original records including marriage licenses, mortgage records, divorce records, criminal records and other important documents. Robichaux said that the Clerk of Court’s term is for four years and can hold the position as long as the public feels the clerk is doing a good job.

 Robichaux said that she is a Minute Clerk assigned to child support and has held the position for the past 16 years. As a Minute Clerk she is also able to fill in as a clerk for any of the district judges. Some of her duties are to take down court minutes, a summary of each case on what went on and who was present, assesses costs, swears in witnesses, files evidence and updates and follows up on child support payments. “The Minute Clerk’s job consists of the hub of the work that comes though the Clerk of Courts office,” Robichaux explained.

 Robichaux said that she has been with the Clerk of Courts office for 25 years, starting in the criminal department where she became a supervisor. She said she worked as an election commissioner, which she found was the most important job she had ever held because she learned the election process. As a Clerk of Court she is now the chief elections officer and her experience as an election commissioner has given her the experience she needed.

 Robichaux said, along with the many different positions she has held, that she has also prepared appeals for the court of appeals. The difference between the job she holds now as Minute Clerk and the jobs held in the past is that being a Clerk of Court she will now have administrative duties, she said.

 “When I was a supervisor I only supervised four or five people in a department where now I will be supervising over 70 people. I will now literally be working in ever department hands on instead of two or three,” Robichaux explained. She said that the salary will now be better but that it also entails 12 times the work she had been doing in the past.

 Robichaux said the reason that she ran was because she felt that she was most qualified for the job because she already worked in the Clerk of Courts office and she would be the best for the position. The platform that she ran on was her experience in the office for 25 years, the experience she has learned from the on the job training and knowledge of the intricate workings of the office. “I felt that I won because I stayed on the high road and never got negative, I stuck to the facts and touted my experience and professionalism,” Robichaux said.

 She felt that what set her apart from her opponents was that they were complete opposites because she is a female, she had experience in the office already, and was very positive and he was a male with no experience in the office and always had negative comments to make.

Robichaux said the changes she will bring to the Terrebonne Parish is technology in the Clerk of Court’s office by creating a website. She said that Terrebonne Parish’s records at the Clerk of Courts’ office has been online for two to three months. The website she will create will be for the public to access important original documents and information that one would need to know before going into the Clerk of Courts office.

She said that by providing this information online it will be more helpful to Terrebonne Parish because it is such as wide area and this will give people the information they need to know so that the public can bring the appropriate documents when going to the office. The website also shows the price of the fees so that they can have the appropriate payment ready before they go to the office, so that it is not a wasted trip. “The website will give customer service to the customer before actually going to be a customer,” Robichaux said.

Robichaux said this was her first time running for a public office and she felt it was a great experience and turned out better than she thought it would be. “I’m honored by the overwhelming support of the voters of Terrebonne Parish. Their belief in me inspires me to continue the tradition of integrity and responsible service they have come to expect and deserve,” she said.

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