

# Oconee hires new county attorney, grant writer

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WALHALLA — After 12 years as a partner in a Charleston-based law firm, a litigator specializing in corporate and insurance law has been hired to be Oconee County's staff attorney.

David A. Root will be paid an annual salary of \$130,000 and will start his new job Monday, county administra-



Root

tor Scott Moulder said.

"I was impressed with David's approach to the law and some of the discussions we had regarding the county's role

in how the law can be interpreted and implemented in some of the county's operations," Moulder said Friday. "He has a true understanding of public service and what it means to be a public servant."

Root will take over day-to-day counsel duties for Tom Martin of statewide McNair Law Firm. Martin held the position since 2009, but after seeing the county's legal fees top \$3 million over the past

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five years, council decided it was time to try switching to an in-house staff attorney.

Moulder has said the county will likely continue to use McNair Law Firm for additional specialized services.

The county is also filling the newly created position of grant writer with Sharon DeRidder, who is scheduled to begin work the first week of November. Moulder said she will be paid less than \$50,000.

"She's got substantial grant-writing experience working in Florida, and she also operates a private consulting business related to grant-writing management and project management through the grant process."

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