

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Chautauqua County Executive Rings In 2010 with Inauguration Ceremony**

Mayville: -- Chautauqua County Executive Gregory J. Edwards was joined by hundreds of revelers at a New Year's Eve party that also served as an Inauguration Celebration Friday, January 1, 2010. The event was held at the Chautauqua Suites Meeting & Expo Center in Mayville.

Edwards, along with the Hon. Stephen Cass, Chautauqua County District Attorney David Foley and County Clerk Sandra Sopak were all sworn into office during a ceremony held shortly after midnight. All four gave their official Oaths of Office in the presence of New York State Senator Catharine Young.

The inauguration is a departure from the typical time and venue. In the past, the ceremony has taken place during the day at the County Courthouse in Mayville. Edwards said the move allowed friends, family and members of the general public that would not normally be able to attend to take part in the inauguration.

"I wanted to ring in the New Year with a special event that included the inauguration ceremony that typically takes place during the day on January 1," Edwards said. "I want to personally thank State Senator Young for joining us and taking my affirmation, along with those of Judge Cass, Dave Foley and Sandy Sopak."

Judge Cass wanted to thank the voters of Chautauqua County for their overwhelming and generous support. "It is a great honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Chautauqua County in their Court and I look forward to serving as your Surrogate for the next 10 years," said Cass.

Judge Cass has served as the Chautauqua County Surrogate's Court Judge since 1999. He is also Acting Supreme Court Justice, Integrated Domestic Violence Part, and Past President of the New York State Surrogate's Association. Cass is married to the former Krista Fagerstrom and they have two children, Katie age 17 and McKenzie age 14.

Sopak said it's been a pleasure serving the people of Chautauqua County for the past 16 years. "We've been able to accomplish so much in the County Clerk's Office, from making electronic images of deeds from 1969 through the present available to the public, to scanning and electronically filing all civil, criminal and matrimonial court work. The advancements in technology have made this job a never-ending learning experience and I've loved every minute of it. I'm anxiously looking forward to the changes the next four years will bring."

Foley also graciously thanked all those who have supported him during the past two elections, and said that he is ready to serve the public for the next 4 years.

Those in attendance were entertained by the Dave Golando Big Band, and enjoyed Hors d'ouvres, dessert and beverages prepared by Chautauqua Suites. Edwards pointed out that any proceeds from the event, after expenses, will be donated to the United Ways of Northern and Southern Chautauqua County.

"The catalyst for this event was my desire to thank the people who call Chautauqua County home for supporting me this past November," Edwards said. "I look forward to serving the residents of Chautauqua County over the next 4 years, and handling the challenges and celebrating the triumphs that are sure to lie ahead."

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