

Scarlett Wilson becomes first woman to serve as Ninth Circuit Solicitor

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Scarlett Wilson, chosen to succeed Ralph Hoisington, could be the first female solicitor for the 9th Circuit, which includes Charleston and Berkeley counties.

Veteran prosecutor Scarlett Wilson was picked to succeed Solicitor Ralph Hoisington on Friday after Gov. Mark Sanford's first choice for the job had an abrupt change of heart.

Wilson, who was Hoisington's second-in-command, becomes the first woman to serve as the top prosecutor for the Ninth Circuit, which includes Charleston and Berkeley Counties. She must still be confirmed by the state senate, but she assumed the job on an interim basis under an emergency appointment by Chief Justice Jean Toal, Sanford spokesman Benjamin Fox said.

The news came just one week after Sanford announced that federal prosecutor Scott Schools had been chosen to succeed Hoisington, who died last month after a six-month battle with pancreatic cancer. The choice of Schools, the interim U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California, had been well-received in Charleston's legal circles.

Schools, 45, informed the governor's office on Friday that he no longer wished to take job, Fox said. Schools could not be reached for comment late Friday afternoon.

Wilson, 39, is a native of Hemingway. She graduated from Clemson University and then USC Law, in 1992. After clerking for Circuit Judge Don S. Rushing, she worked as an assistant solicitor before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office and its Violent Crimes Task Force in 1995. She began working for Hoisington after his election.

"I am honored by Governor Sanford's confidence in my abilities, just as I was six and a half years ago when Solicitor Hoisington chose me as his second-in-command," Wilson said in a written statement. "The opportunity to serve the people of Berkeley and Charleston Counties as

Solicitor is quite a privilege. I look forward to continuing Solicitor Hoisington's legacy and building on our solid relationship with law enforcement."