

LOCAL

Grant County moves judge who complained about mold

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Published: 3:00 PM EDT August 22, 2008

Updated: 3:06 AM EDT April 15, 2016



Marion - Grant County officials have found new space for a judge who moved from the courthouse, saying that it has a mold problem he believes is aggravating his health troubles.

The county commissioners on Thursday approved plans to move Superior Court Judge Randall Johnson's offices to the sixth floor of the county government complex.

Johnson said in a letter to county officials last week that repairs need to be made to the courthouse to address the mold problem. He said doctors have found high levels of several molds in his blood and that many were the same kind found in the courthouse during a Department of Labor study in March.

Commissioner Mark Bardsley said the state Department of Health was expected to conduct a study of air quality in the courthouse Monday.

"We want to know what's going on in the building," he said.

Johnson told the commissioners on Thursday that others who work in the courthouse have also had health problems but fear saying anything.

"The mold has been in this building for years - that's my opinion; I can't prove it," Johnson said.
"When the roof blew off two years ago, it's been worse."

Commissioner David Glickfield said Johnson was the first person who has publicly come to the board to discuss the problem.

"We as commissioners recommended quite some time ago that we build a new courthouse, and the council said no," Glickfield said.

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