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NEWSPAPERS

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 1997

Cook asks, is taken off Walls rape case

By JOAN McCOY
Leader Staff

A special prosecutor, not Lonoke County Prosecutor Larry Cook, will take the rape case against a former judge's son to court in February.

Cook asked Friday to be excused from the case against Charles A. "Jack" Walls to "avoid any appear-

ance of impropriety."

Circuit Court Judge Lance Hanshaw, who will hear the case against Walls, granted Cook's motion Monday.

Cook said Tuesday that he doesn't know Jack Walls personally, but he feels that since he has prosecuted cases before Walls' father, former

Chancery/Circuit Judge Charles Walls Jr., his participation in the case might appear to be a conflict of interest.

Hanshaw said Tuesday that he will appoint a special prosecutor, but that he intends to preside over the case himself.

The fact that the defendant is the

son of a colleague is not a problem, Hanshaw said.

"I'm elected to do a job," he said. "If I got off every case where I know someone, I might as well resign. Because I know everyone in the county."

Walls, 50, a former Boy Scout leader, was arrested earlier this month and charged with two counts of rape

against boys who were in his troop during the early '90s.

Replacing Cook should not delay the February trial, Hanshaw said.

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