Tallahassee’s Silvester Dawson Named Supreme Court Marshal

TALLAHASSEE – Starting with 9:00 a.m. arguments on June 7, a new voice will announce the traditional Oyez that always opens formal sessions of the Florida Supreme Court – the voice of newly appointed Marshal Silvester Dawson of Tallahassee.

Dawson, 49, is a longtime officer in the Florida Highway Patrol, currently serving as Lieutenant Colonel – a position he attained after starting as a trooper in 1983. Before joining FHP, he served in the United States Army, reaching the rank of sergeant.

“I am truly honored to have been chosen to serve as the Florida Supreme Court Marshal,” Dawson said. “The officers of the Marshal’s Office are quiet heroes who protect our state’s highest and most honorable court and its Justices 24 hours a day. I am very proud of them and look forward to joining their noble mission.”

He begins work at the Court on Wednesday, June 1, in time for next week’s June arguments. Dawson will be the eighth Marshal in Supreme Court history.

At FHP, Dawson served as deputy division director and chief of staff and was responsible for managing a budget of over $203 million.

At the Court, he will not only oversee Court security but also is custodian of the grounds, building, and property, and is responsible for managing the operational budget. He has authority to execute the Court’s orders throughout the state and can deputize local sheriffs or deputy sheriffs to assist.

Dawson was selected competitively by a committee that included Chief Justice Charles T. Canady.

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