



Candidate from GOP begins bid to be Oklahoma's AG Only one Republican has held post

BY MICHAEL McNUTT

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[Ryan Leonard](#) formally embarked Wednesday on his effort to become Oklahoma's first Republican attorney general in nearly 40 years.



Leonard, 37, who had filed campaign committee papers earlier with the state Ethics Commission, officially kicked off his campaign by pledging to meet with voters in the state's 77 counties in the next few months.

Leonard said six months ago he was considering a run for the post, which will be open in the November 2010 elections. [Attorney General Drew Edmondson](#), elected in 1994, is running for governor.

Leonard is the first to formally announce plans to file for the attorney general post. The filing period is in June.

Leonard, of [Oklahoma City](#), has a private law practice. He worked as a senior legislative aide to former U.S. Sen. Don Nickles, R-[Ponca City](#), in [Washington](#) and served 2001-02 as a [Canadian County](#) assistant district attorney.

He is the son of U.S. District Judge Tim Leonard.

Only one Republican has served as attorney general since Oklahoma's statehood in 1907. [G.T. Blankenship](#) served from 1967-71.

Leonard said he wants to crack down on the illegal making and selling of methamphetamine in the state.

"It's a scourge on this state, and the attorney general through the multicounty grand jury needs to play a leading role," Leonard said. "The threat is ever-changing, and the AG needs to play a real leadership role in prosecuting and breaking up these drug distribution networks."

Read more: <http://newsok.com/candidate-from-gop-begins-bid-to-be-ag/article/3409127#ixzz0a9wZzNDc>