Lawyer finds no objection to transplant

By Jessica Cooley, Cox East Texas

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LUFKIN — A Lufkin lawyer diagnosed with a life-threatening kidney disease received the gift of life from an unlikely source — a Longview lawyer he's faced in more than 4,000 cases in the past five years.

During a life insurance physical three years ago, lab results revealed that Scott Skelton had IgA nephropathy, an autoimmune disease that can cause kidney failure.

“Since surgery, Keith and I have talked about cases,” Skelton said. “We work together every day.”

After a whirlwind of tests, Langston gave Skelton a kidney Feb. 12 — in the same Dallas hospital where Skelton was born. Skelton and Langston had been friends and colleagues for years, but he did not know Skelton's kidneys were failing.

"Keith called me one day and said, 'I hear you need a kidney — I want to donate one,'" Skelton said. "I never dreamed that he would be the one to offer me a kidney. It just goes to show that it pays to make friends in all walks of life.”

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