

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

RE: APPROVAL OF NEW TERMS FOR THE BUSINESS COURT DIVISION MEMBERS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE HONORABLE JENNIFER P. DENT TO THE BUSINESS COURT DIVISION

WHEREAS, by Order entered on September 11, 2012, the Court approved West Virginia Trial Court Rule 29 relating to the Business Court Division, which became effective October 10, 2012.

WHEREAS, Rule 29.02 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules, the Business Court Division (“Division”) will consist of up to seven (7) active or senior status circuit court judges as appointed by the Chief Justice, with the approval of the Supreme Court of Appeals, for a term of seven (7) years each. Rule 29.02 further provides that in 2012, “at least three judges shall be appointed, with subsequent appointments to be made in such a fashion as to insure that the terms are staggered.”

WHEREAS, by Order entered on September 11, 2012, the Court appointed four circuit court judges to the Business Court Division with three of the terms to run from October 10, 2012, through October 9, 2019, and one term to run from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2019.

WHEREAS, by Order entered on October 1, 2013, the Court appointed two additional circuit court judges to the Business Court Division with the terms running from October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2020, making a total of six judges on the Division.

WHEREAS, by Order entered on June 24, 2015, the Court appointed one additional judge to serve from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2022, making a total of seven judges on the Division.

WHEREAS, six of the seven terms will expire by September 30, 2020, three of those six terms expire October 9, 2019, one December 31, 2019, and two September 30, 2020; and recognizing that the Division could potentially have six new judges within a year, the Chair of the Business Court Division, the Honorable Michael D. Lorensen, Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit, with approval of the other Division members, proposed to the Court that the Division terms be altered to insure the terms are staggered pursuant to Rule 29.02.

WHEREAS, the Honorable James A. Matish, Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, has requested that he not be reappointed to the Division upon expiration of his term and the Honorable Jennifer P. Dent, Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, has agreed to be appointed in his place.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Court has approved the proposal and the appointment of Judge Dent, and has altered the expiration dates of each term, allowing one new appointment or renewal each year. This will insure the terms are staggered, with the intent of maintaining experienced and specially trained judges on the Division.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Business Court Division members and the expiration dates of their terms shall now be as follows:

The Honorable Shawn D. Nines Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit	December 31, 2027
The Honorable Michael D. Lorensen (Chair) Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit	December 31, 2026
The Honorable Jennifer P. Dent Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit	December 31, 2025
The Honorable Christopher C. Wilkes Senior Status Judge	December 31, 2024
The Honorable Paul T. Farrell Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit	December 31, 2023
The Honorable H. Charles Carl III Judge of the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit	December 31, 2022
The Honorable James H. Young Jr. Judge of the Twenty-Fourth Judicial Circuit.	December 31, 2021

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Clerk of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals record this Order in the office of said Clerk.

ENTERED: OCTOBER 9, 2019



ELIZABETH D. WALKER
Chief Justice