

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

**SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**RE: APPOINTMENTS OF THE HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER C. WILKES TO SERVE AS A SENIOR STATUS JUDGE TO THE BUSINESS COURT DIVISION AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE HONORABLE MICHAEL D. LORENSEN AS CHAIR OF THE BUSINESS COURT DIVISION EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2019**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Rule 29.02 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules, the Business Court Division may consist “of up to seven (7) active or senior status circuit court judges who shall be appointed by the Chief Justice, with the approval of the Supreme Court of Appeals.” Furthermore, “[b]eginning in 2012 and every three years thereafter, the Chief Justice shall designate a judge of the Division to serve as its Chair . . . .”

WHEREAS, the Honorable Christopher C. Wilkes, Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit, was previously appointed to serve as Chair of the Business Court Division until January 31, 2019. Judge Wilkes, whose term on the Business Court Division is scheduled to expire on October 9, 2019, has advised the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals that he is retiring as a circuit judge effective January 31, 2019. By Administrative Order entered on January 14, 2019, Judge Wilkes was approved for admission to Senior Status upon his retirement.

WHEREAS, Judge Wilkes has further advised the Chief Justice that he would like to continue serving on the Business Court following his retirement.

WHEREAS, the Court has approved for Judge Wilkes to continue serving on the Business Court as a senior status judge, effective February 1, 2019, until his term expires on October 9, 2019.

WHEREAS, the Court has also approved the appointment of the Honorable Michael D. Lorensen, Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit, to serve as Chair of the Business Court Division beginning on February 1, 2019, and continuing through September 30, 2020.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, that the Honorable Christopher C. Wilkes, Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit, is to continue serving on the Business Court Division as a senior status judge, effective February 1, 2019, through October 9, 2019.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Honorable Michael D. Lorensen, Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit, be, and he hereby is, appointed to serve as Chair of the Business Court Division beginning on February 1, 2019, and continuing through September 30, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGED that the Business Court Division members and the expiration dates of their terms shall now be as follows effective February 1, 2019:

**The Honorable Michael D. Lorensen (Chair)**      September 30, 2020  
Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Christopher C. Wilkes**      October 9, 2019  
Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Joanna I. Tabit**      October 9, 2019  
Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable James A. Matish**      October 9, 2019  
Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable James H. Young Jr.**      December 31, 2019  
Judge of the Twenty-Fourth Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable Paul T. Farrell**      September 30, 2020  
Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit

**The Honorable H. Charles Carl III**      June 30, 2022  
Judge of the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit.

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:    JANUARY 28, 2019



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ELIZABETH D. WALKER  
Chief Justice