

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

RE: APPOINTMENTS TO THE MASS LITIGATION PANEL

Pursuant to Rule 26.02 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules, the Chief Justice, with the approval of the Supreme Court of Appeals, shall appoint seven (7) active or senior status circuit court judges to serve on the Mass Litigation Panel (“Panel”). “Each appointment is for a term of three (3) years, with two (2) judges to be appointed each year; provided, however, that beginning in 2009 and in every third year thereafter, three (3) judges shall be appointed. There is no prohibition against serving successive terms.” *Id.* Further, “[t]he Chief Justice shall annually designate a Panel member to serve as its Chair to preside over the activities of the Panel and to report to the Supreme Court of Appeals.” *Id.*

The terms of the Honorable Alan D. Moats, Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, and the Honorable Christopher J. McCarthy, Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, will expire on June 30, 2020. Judge Moats currently serves as the Mass Litigation Panel Chair. Although the term for the Honorable Debra Scudiere, Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, will not expire until June 30, 2021, her judgeship ended on June 26, 2020, thereby creating a vacancy on the Panel.

The Court has approved the reappointment of Judge Moats and Judge McCarthy to serve as members of the Panel; the reappointment of Judge Moats as Chair of the Panel; and the appointment of the Honorable Gregory L. Howard, Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, to serve on the Mass Litigation Panel for the duration of Judge Scudiere’s term.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, that Judge Alan D. Moats and Judge Christopher J. McCarthy are reappointed to serve on the Panel from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023; that Judge Moats is reappointed to serve as Chair of the Panel from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021; and that Judge Gregory L. Howard is appointed to serve on the Panel until June 30, 2021, under the provisions of Rule 26.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ACKNOWLEDGED, that the current Panel members and the expiration dates of their terms shall now be as follows:

The Honorable Alan D. Moats (Chair) Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2023
The Honorable Jay M. Hoke Judge of the Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2021
The Honorable Jack Alsop Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2021
The Honorable Gregory L. Howard	June 30, 2021

Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Derek C. Swope
Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit

June 30, 2022

The Honorable Joanna I. Tabit
Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

June 30, 2022

The Honorable Christopher J. McCarthy
Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

June 30, 2023

ENTERED: JUNE 29, 2020



TIM ARMSTEAD
Chief Justice