



# Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

## News

Administrative Office  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Bldg. 1, Room E-316  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305  
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy  
(304) 340-2306 April Harless  
(304) 558-4219 / TTY  
(304) 558-1212 / FAX  
Web Site: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca>  
Twitter: [WVCourts](https://twitter.com/WVCourts)  
Information Services Division  
Email: [Jennifer.Bundy@courtswv.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Bundy@courtswv.gov)  
Email: [April.Harless@courtswv.gov](mailto:April.Harless@courtswv.gov)

### **Chief Justice appoints Judge Derek Swope to preside in Putnam County case**

For immediate release Monday, August 29, 2011

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Chief Justice Margaret Workman today, August 29, announced the appointment of Ninth Judicial Circuit (Mercer County) Judge Derek Swope to preside in a class action lawsuit in Putnam County.

Judge Swope, a member of the Mass Litigation Panel, will sit in for Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit (Putnam County) Judge O.C. Spaulding, who stepped aside from the case on Friday due to illness. Judge Spaulding announced that he has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, a degenerative motor neuron disease.

The trial of *Bibb et. al. v. Monsanto*, Putnam County case No. 04-C-465, is currently scheduled to begin on Sept. 6. Judge Swope will decide whether to keep the current trial schedule.

Chief Justice Workman previously appointed Senior Status Judge James Holliday to preside in other cases on Judge Spaulding's docket during the Monsanto trial, which is expected to last several months. Judge Holliday will continue to provide assistance in the Twenty-Ninth Circuit as needed during Judge Spaulding's illness.

“Judge Spaulding is one of the most outstanding jurists in West Virginia, and one of the finest people I know. I speak for entire Supreme Court when I say that we wish him well as he addresses his illness,” said Chief Justice Workman.

#