



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Chief Justice to give commencement address at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College For immediate release Monday, May 16, 2011

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – Supreme Court Chief Justice Margaret L. Workman is scheduled to give the commencement address to graduates of Blue Ridge Community and Technical College at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 21, at Martinsburg High School.

The college has about 3,800 students; 260 are graduating. The college serves primarily adult students, with an average age of 33. Two-thirds of the students are female and about seventy percent are full-time.

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College has grown 150 percent in the last six years and it is the fastest-growing community college in West Virginia. It offers more than fifty associate degree and certificate programs in four schools.

Chief Justice Workman gave the commencement address at Shepherd University last year.

In 1988, Chief Justice Workman was the first woman elected to the Supreme Court and the first woman elected to a statewide office.

A native West Virginian, she received her law degree in 1974 from the West Virginia University College of Law. Immediately after law school, she served as assistant majority counsel to the U.S. Senate Public Works Committee, chaired by Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia. She returned to West Virginia to work as a law clerk to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County). In 1976 she served as an advance person in the Carter Presidential Campaign and later worked on the campaign staff of U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller.

In 1981, she became the youngest circuit court judge in the state when then-Governor Rockefeller appointed her to the Kanawha County Circuit Court. She ran successfully for the unexpired term in 1982 and the full term in 1984. After her election to the Supreme Court, she served as chief justice in 1993 and 1997.

During her time as Chief Justice, she fostered a close working relationship between the court system and domestic violence programs. She formed the Broadwater Committee, which made reform in the court system's responses to children's issues and spearheaded the development of rules governing child abuse and neglect cases.

This year, Chief Justice Workman is focusing on improving rehabilitation services for juveniles.

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