



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Justice Robin Jean Davis to be Chief Justice in 2014

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CHARLESTON, W. Va. – Robin Jean Davis will be Chief Justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court beginning January 1, 2014.

At a fall administrative conference, Chief Justice Brent D. Benjamin made the motion for Justice Davis to succeed him as Chief, with Justice Margaret L. Workman to serve as Chief Justice if Justice Davis is unable to serve. The Court approved the motion unanimously.

Justice Davis will be the first person to serve as Chief Justice six times since the 1974 Judicial Reorganization Amendment unified the state court system into a single entity supervised by the Supreme Court. Justice Davis previously served as Chief Justice in 1998, 2002, 2006, 2007, and 2010. Retired Justice Thomas E. McHugh and Retired Justice Richard Neely each served as Chief Justice five times.

Justice Davis also is one of three Justices elected three times to the Supreme Court. In 1996 she was elected to an unexpired term, and she was elected to full twelve-year terms in 2000 and 2012. Justice McHugh (who served twenty years and eight months) and the late Justice Frank C. Haymond (who served twenty-six years and eleven months) also were elected three times.

Justice Davis took office in December 1996 and is the senior member of the Supreme Court.

She received her bachelor's degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1978, and her master's degree and law degree from West Virginia University in 1982. She was engaged in the private practice of law from 1982 until 1996 at the six-person law firm of Segal and Davis, L.C. She concentrated in the field of employee benefits and domestic relations. In 1993, she became the first lawyer in West Virginia to be inducted into the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. In 1991, the Supreme Court of Appeals appointed her to the seven-person West Virginia Board of Law Examiners, on which she served until her election.

Justice Davis is the Supreme Court's designee to the Judiciary's Initiative on Truancy and under her leadership in previous terms as Chief Justice the Court made advancements in technology, civics education, and worked cooperatively with other branches of government to improve the lives of abused and neglected children.

When she was Chief Justice in 2010, the Court approved Revised Rules of Appellate Procedure, which modernize and comprehensively change the appellate process in West Virginia to provide a decision on the merits in every case, and new Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

In 2000, Justice Davis received the Distinguished West Virginian Award from then-Governor Cecil H. Underwood. In 2008 she received the Graduate of Distinction Award from the West Virginia Education Alliance.

Justice Davis is the author of several *West Virginia Law Review* articles. She is the co-author with former Justice Franklin Cleckley and Louis J. Palmer, Jr., of the *Litigation Handbook on West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure*.

She is married to Charleston attorney Scott Segal, and they have one son, Oliver.

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