



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Judge James Rowe to talk to Senate Judiciary Committee about juvenile drug courts, truancy programs

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Eleventh Judicial Circuit (Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties) Judge James J. Rowe will make a presentation to the Senate Judiciary Committee at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, about the Greenbrier Juvenile Drug Court and truancy program.

Judge Rowe will be joined by Greenbrier County Assistant Prosecutor Jennifer Dent; Greenbrier County Schools Attendance Director Patti Burdette; Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator Dustin Martin; and Suzanne Gunter, the school-based probation officer in Greenbrier County schools.

Judge Rowe, a former House Majority Leader and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said the group will ask the Senate Judiciary Committee to consider two changes in state laws. One would allow expelled students who are participants in juvenile drug courts to return to school earlier. The second law change would allow a court to retain jurisdiction over a truant who turns 18 until the teen graduates from high school if that child is involved in a drug court or court truancy program.

The Greenbrier County Juvenile Drug Court began operating in November 2012. The county has had a successful judicial truancy program for several years.

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