



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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New Kanawha Circuit Judge to be sworn in Nov. 13

For immediate release

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Joanna I. Tabit, the newest Kanawha County Circuit Judge, will be sworn in at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13, in the ceremonial courtroom (also known as Courtroom No. 4) in the Kanawha County Courthouse, 407 Virginia St. E., Charleston.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Thomas E. McHugh will deliver the oath of office.

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin appointed Ms. Tabit on October 2 to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County) seat vacated by Judge Paul Zakaib, Jr., when he retired in October.

Ms. Tabit, 53, is a native of Charleston, and a graduate of Marshall University and West Virginia University College of law. She was a personal law clerk for Justice McHugh from 1986 to 1988. She then worked for three years as a deputy attorney general under Attorneys General Roger Tompkins and Mario Palumbo, where she supervised the appellate division. She has practiced law at the Charleston firm Steptoe & Johnson PLLC since 1992, and has focused on trial and appellate advocacy.

As an adjunct professor, she also has taught oral and written appellate advocacy to second- and third-year law students at the West Virginia University College of Law in the summer sessions of 2012 and 2013.

She has served in a number of capacities for YWCA of Charleston, City of Charleston Human Rights Commission, Project Teach, and Literacy Volunteers of America.

She is a member of the Kanawha County Bar Association; the John A. Frail, Jr., American Inns of Court; and is the membership chairwoman of the United States Supreme Court Historical Society.