



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Circuit Judge Omar Aboulhosn resigns, accepts appointment as U.S. magistrate

For immediate release

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Photo can be found on flickr:

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PRINCETON, W. Va. – Ninth Judicial Circuit (Mercer County) Judge Omar Aboulhosn resigned Friday, Dec. 4, in letters sent to Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and Supreme Court Chief Justice Margaret L. Workman.

Judge Aboulhosn has accepted an eight-year appointment to the bench as a U.S. Magistrate in the Southern District of West Virginia. Chief U.S. District Judge Chuck Chambers made the appointment Dec. 3.

Judge Aboulhosn's resignation from the circuit court bench is effective Dec. 31. He starts work in federal court on Jan. 1, 2016.

"Judge Aboulhosn has been a remarkable circuit court judge in all respects," said Chief Justice Workman. "His diligence, intelligence, and judiciousness will be a real asset to the federal court system."

Judge Aboulhosn is a native of Princeton. He graduated from Princeton Senior High School in 1985, Concord University in 1989, and West Virginia University College of Law in 1992.

He practiced law in Bluefield at the firm of Richardson and Davis from 1992 to 1994 and Sanders, Austin, Swope, and Flanigan from 1994 to 2008, where he became a partner in 1999.

Judge Aboulhosn began public service as a magistrate, a position he held during 1996. He was Princeton City Court Judge from 1997 to 1999, Mercer County Chief Mental Hygiene Commissioner from 2004 to 2007, and an elected member of Princeton City Council in 2007. He was elected judge of the Twelfth Family Court Circuit (Mercer and McDowell Counties) in 2008 but declined to take the seat because then-Governor Joe Manchin appointed him to a new circuit judge position in the Ninth Judicial Circuit (Mercer County). He took office as a circuit judge on January 1, 2009, and was elected to that position in 2010.

Judge Aboulhosn has been appointed twice to sit on the Supreme Court to hear cases in which a Justice was recused. He is chairman of the Supreme Court's Juvenile Justice Commission and was a member of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's Intergovernmental Taskforce on Juvenile Justice in 2014.

He is a former member of the board of directors of the West Virginia Association for Justice. He is a current member of the Board of Directors of the Jonathan Powell Hope Foundation, Inc., which helps families of children with cancer.

Judge Aboulhosn received the 2007 Governor's Service Award for volunteer community service. An Eagle Scout (1982), he currently serves as a merit badge counselor and as chairman of the Eagle Board of Review for the Mountain Dominion District of the Buckskin Council. As part of the Mercer County Schools' mentoring program, he has partnered with Montcalm School's sixth grade class and at the end of every school year leads students on a tour of the Southern Regional Jail.

He and his wife, Weena, have one daughter.