



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Circuit judges to participate in Juvenile re-entry networking conference For immediate release

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Two West Virginia circuit judges will participate in a conference next week to discuss juvenile justice issues.

Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties) Judge Christopher Wilkes and Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit (Putnam County) Judge Phillip Stowers, a member of the Supreme Court's Juvenile Justice Commission, will participate in a panel discussion at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 30.

The panel discussion is part of a day-long conference at the John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Prison Ministry and the West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services. The purpose of the conference is to help youths move from the custody of the Division of Juvenile Services into community-based settings.

The judicial, executive, and legislative branches also worked together on Senate Bill 393, which incorporates changes recommended by the West Virginia Intergovernmental Task Force on Juvenile Justice. The task force was formed by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and assisted by The Pew Charitable Trusts. The data- and research-driven reforms emphasize keeping at-risk youths in their homes and communities whenever possible while enhancing accountability and improving public safety.

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