

West Virginia Court System

2021 Annual Report



West Virginia Court System 2021 Annual Report

Chief Justice

Honorable Evan H. Jenkins

Justices

Honorable Elizabeth D. "Beth" Walker

Honorable Tim Armstead

Honorable John A. Hutchison

Honorable William R. "Bill" Wooton

Clerk of Court

Edythe Nash Gaiser

Administrative Director

Joseph Armstrong

**Produced by the Supreme Court of Appeals
of West Virginia Public Information Office**

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Introduction

Administrative Director

Joseph Armstrong



As part of my statutory duties set forth in West Virginia Code § 51-1-17, I am pleased to present an overview of the court system's caseload statistics, expenditures, and major initiatives implemented in 2021, such as

- the release of a new jury orientation video and updated juror handbook in conjunction with proclaiming November Juror Appreciation Month in West Virginia;
- the development and implementation of a grant-funded pilot project to allow victims of domestic and sexual violence to remotely file and virtually participate in protection hearings, with the assistance of an advocate; and
- adding civility language to the oath lawyers take when they are admitted to the practice of law.

The state judiciary is comprised of 1,500 dedicated employees, including judges, magistrates, probation officers, clerks, and administrative and support personnel. Staff navigated the challenges of the pandemic, remained operational with more than 225,000 cases filed in the lower courts in 2021, and responded in innovative ways to ensure access to courts. This report reflects their collective dedication to provide efficient and accessible justice.

I would like to specifically thank clerks and judicial officers for their commitment and cooperation to provide the data published in this report.

Presenting this annual report is part of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia's pledge to be transparent and fiscally accountable to those it serves. I hope this report is a valuable tool in understanding our state's unified court system.

Joseph Armstrong
Administrative Director

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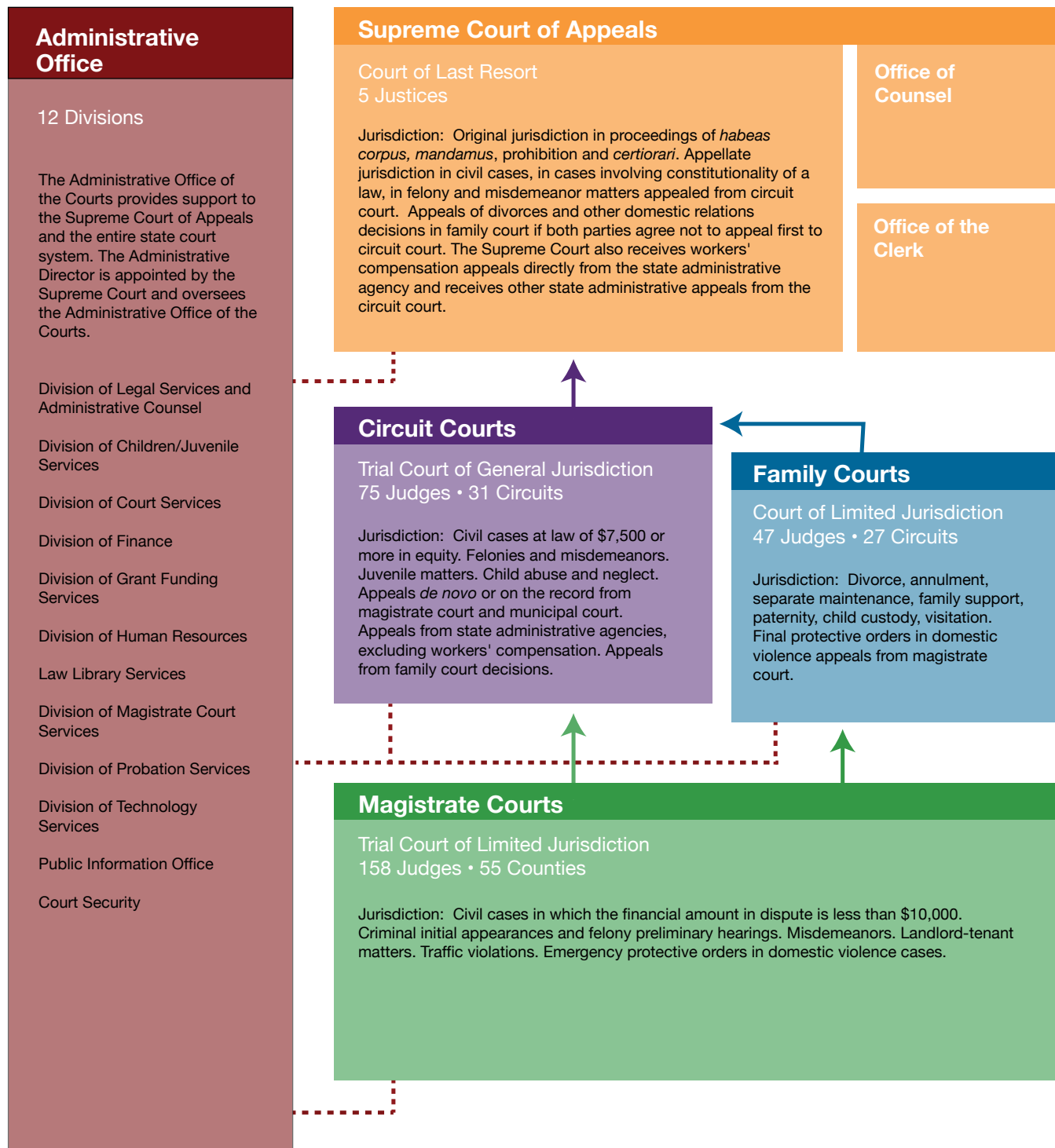
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1) Paul Mendez from the Administrative Office hands out Halloween candy in the east wing of the Capitol. 2) Bar Admissions Ceremony, October 27, 2021. 3) Judge Anita Ashley of the Fifth Judicial Circuit (Calhoun, Jackson, and Mason Counties) and Justice Bill Wooton. 4) Historic Jefferson County Courthouse. ►



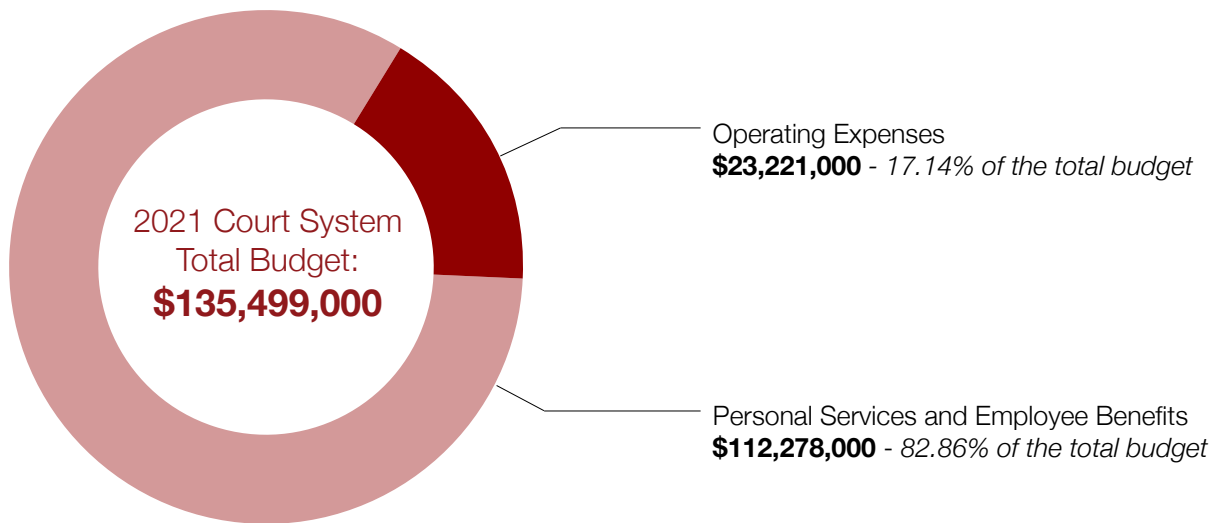
West Virginia Court System

Organizational Chart



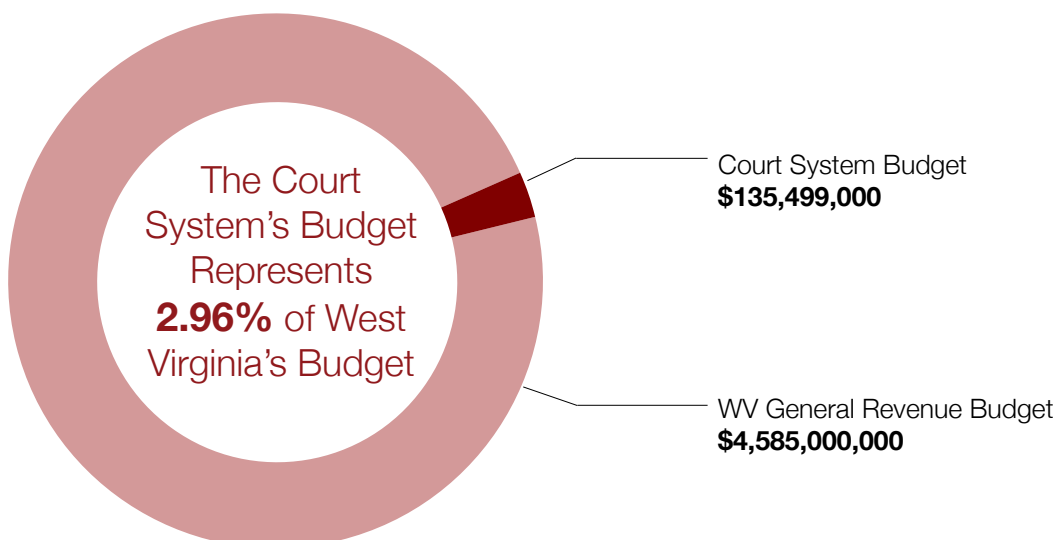
Court System Budget

Fiscal Year 2021
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



State of West Virginia Budget

Fiscal Year 2021
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



2021 Year in Review

January

Three Justices Take Oaths of Office at Inauguration

January 22

Justices Tim Armstead, John Hutchison, and William R. Wooton were sworn in by Chief Justice Evan Jenkins during the 2021 West Virginia Gubernatorial and Constitutional Officer Inauguration Ceremony on the north steps of the West Virginia Capitol. The three Justices were elected in November 2020. Justice Armstead and Justice Wooton were elected to 12-year terms, and Justice Hutchison was elected to complete a term that ends in 2024.



VIRTUAL SCHOOL VISITS

Supreme Court Justices continued to talk with West Virginia students about the court system despite COVID-19 challenges. On January 19, Chief Justice Evan Jenkins gave fourth- and fifth-grade students at Prichard Elementary in Wayne County a virtual tour of the West Virginia Supreme Court. On January 25, Chief Justice Jenkins, Justice Beth Walker, Justice Tim Armstead, and Justice John Hutchison spent an hour meeting virtually with eighth-grade students from Taylor County Middle School. ▼



February

Chief Justice Makes Budget Presentations Virtually and In-Person

At the request of the Legislature, the judiciary created a video of its 2021-22 budget year presentation by Chief Justice Evan Jenkins. He also made in-person presentations to the House and Senate Finance Committees in February. The West Virginia judicial system budget request was \$139.4 million, which was less than 3 percent of total state general revenue spending. The budget funds the operation of the judicial branch, which has more than 1,500 employees who work in court offices in every county. The video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OnR5gjcCcl>. ▼



March



Court Hears Special Argument Docket and Baker Cup Finals

March 23

Due to COVID-19, the Supreme Court was not able to make its annual trip to the West Virginia University College of Law in Morgantown. Instead, the Supreme Court virtually heard a special docket of cases chosen for an audience of law school students. The Court also judged the finals of the Baker Cup Moot Court appellate advocacy competition after the argument docket. The argument docket and competition were broadcast on YouTube. The arguments and competition were recorded and are available through the Calendar and Docket page for that day: <http://www.courtswv.gov/supreme-court/calendar/2021/Dockets/mar-23-21ad.html>. ▲

Judge Thompson, Stephanie Bond Talk to Legislative Committee

March 3

Then-Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit (Boone and Lincoln Counties) Judge William Thompson and Stephanie Bond, Director of Probation Services, spoke to the House Committee on Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse about removing the “pilot” language from the family treatment court code, making the state’s family treatment courts permanent. Governor Jim Justice signed the bill into law on April 26. The law also removed language that prohibited parents with a prior involuntary termination of parental rights from participating in family treatment courts. ►



More Than 20 People Graduate from Boone County Treatment Courts

March 24

Supreme Court Chief Justice Evan Jenkins, Justice Beth Walker, and Justice Tim Armstead attended a treatment court graduation ceremony for participants and families from the Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit (Boone and Lincoln Counties). Then-Judge Thompson presided over, juvenile, adult and family treatment courts. ▼

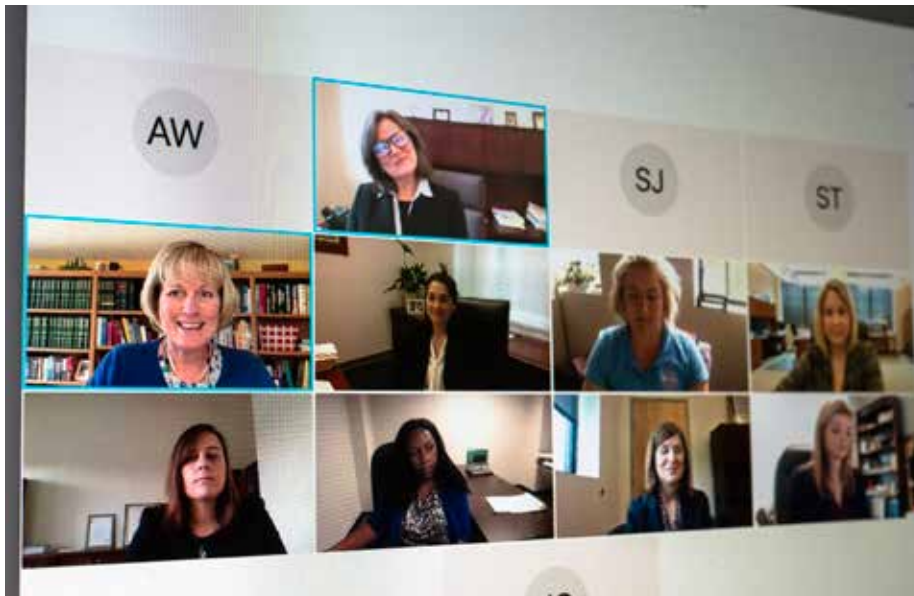


April

JUSTICE WALKER PARTICIPATES IN PANEL ABOUT PROFESSIONS IN THE COURT SYSTEM

April 29

Supreme Court Justice Beth Walker participated in a virtual discussion about careers in the court system. The panel, whose target audience was school children, was presented by the West Virginia State Bar Women in the Profession Committee in honor of Law Day. Circuit Judge Bridget Cohee, Family Court Judge Sally Jackson, Magistrate Carmela Cesare, Court Reporter Marcy Chandler, Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit Court Administrator Carol Miller, Law Clerk Emily Mowry, Probation Officer Airaka Riner, as well as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and guardian *ad litem* talked about their jobs, backgrounds, and educations. ►



Justices participate in WV YLA Youth in Government

April 23

Chief Justice Evan Jenkins delivered oaths of office to the West Virginia Youth Leadership Association's Youth in Government program in the House of Delegates. Justice Tim Armstead presided. They and Justices John Hutchison and William R. Wooton later spoke to the students in the Supreme Court Courtroom. ►

KANAWHA COUNTY JDC FEATURED IN HBO DOCUMENTARY

April 13

During the summer of 2018, a documentary film crew working with authors Jim and Deborah Fallows filmed Kanawha County Juvenile Drug Court proceedings as part of a segment about Charleston, one of eight cities featured in "Our Towns." The documentary premiered on HBO and HBOMax. ►



More information can be found at <https://www.hbo.com/documentaries/our-towns>.

May

Supreme Court Announces Addition of Civility Pledge to Lawyer's Oath

May 17

Chief Justice Evan Jenkins signed an order provisionally adopting and releasing for public comment the addition of a civility pledge to the oath lawyers take when they are admitted to the practice of law. ►

All five Supreme Court Justices; Tom Scarr, President of the West Virginia State Bar; and Jason Pizatella, President of the West Virginia Board of Law Examiners, then took the oath, which was administered by Supreme Court Clerk Edythe Nash Gaiser in the Supreme Court Courtroom. ►



Nicholas County Family Treatment Court Holds First Graduation

May 6

The Nicholas County Family Treatment Court held its first graduation with five families. Twenty-Eighth Judicial Circuit (Nicholas County) Judge Stephen Callaghan, who oversees the program, said teamwork was especially important during the COVID-19 quarantine. Participants regularly visited the Nicholas County Day Report Center, and Family Treatment Court Coordinator Stephanie Smith conducted in-person visits with participants every week, even if those meetings had to be outside. ▼



Justices Help State Bar Group Distribute Law Day Awards

May 3

Chief Justice Evan Jenkins, Justice Tim Armstead, and Justice John Hutchison helped Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties) Judge Bridget Cohee and the West Virginia State Bar Women in the Profession Committee congratulate Law Day contest award winners in a virtual ceremony. The committee invited students across West Virginia to participate in contests involving essays, poetry, songwriting and performance, poster creation, and social media marketing. Students had the option of using either the 2020 Law Day theme, which was “Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100,” or the 2021 theme, which was “Advancing the Rule of Law Now.” ►



June



JUSTICES PRESENT VIRTUAL CLE FOR MONONGALIA BAR ASSOCIATION

June 15

Four Supreme Court Justices jointly presented a virtual continuing legal education class for the Monongalia County Bar Association. Chief Justice Evan Jenkins, Justice Beth Walker, Justice Tim Armstead, and Justice John Hutchison talked about the “State of the Supreme Court.”



July

Wood County Hosts Family Treatment Court Opening, Adult Drug Court Graduation

July 12

The Wood County Family Treatment Court held an opening ceremony officiated by Fourth Judicial Circuit (Wirt and Wood Counties) Judge Jason A. Wharton. Chief Justice Evan Jenkins, Justice Tim Armstead, and Justice John Hutchison attended the ceremony, which also included a graduation for participants who completed the adult drug court program in the previous year, when COVID-19 prevented in-person graduation ceremonies. ▼



August



JUSTICES MEET WITH WVU COLLEGE OF LAW LEADERS

August 5

Justices Tim Armstead and John Hutchison met with the new dean of the West Virginia University College of Law, Amelia Smith Rinehart, and Nicole McConlogue, associate professor of law and clinic director. ▲

Supreme Court Announces New Remote Technology Project

August 18

Chief Justice Evan Jenkins announced a grant-funded pilot project to allow Cabell County victims of domestic and sexual violence to file petitions for protective orders without going to a courthouse. The program also allows victims to virtually attend follow-up hearings in magistrate court and family court from an advocacy office to avoid sharing a room with their alleged assailants. By the end of 2021, the program was operating in three other counties: Jefferson, Kanawha, and Ohio. ▼



Cabell County Announcement August 18, 2021.



Jefferson County Announcement, November 9, 2021.



Kanawha County Announcement, October 25, 2021.



Family Treatment Court Opens in Fayette County

August 30

The Fayette County Family Treatment Court opened, marking the tenth court of its kind in West Virginia. Justice John Hutchison attended on behalf of the Supreme Court of Appeals and told the treatment court team how much the Supreme Court supports efforts to make these programs successful. Twelfth Judicial Circuit (Fayette County) Judge Thomas E. Ewing presides over the treatment court. ◀

September

Sixteen Admitted to West Virginia Bar Take New Oath

September 29

Sixteen people were admitted to practice law in West Virginia during an in-person ceremony before the Supreme Court. They were the first new lawyers to take the revised oath that includes a pledge of civility.



Fall Magistrate Conference Goes Virtual

Magistrate Court Services Director Olunmi Kusimo-Frazier addresses the virtual fall Magistrate Conference. ▲

October

CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON WOMEN AND THE LAW

October 11

The University of Charleston hosted “When There Are Nine: A Day of Elevating Women.” Justice Beth Walker and Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County) Judge Joanna Tabit worked with two UC professors to plan the program encouraging young women to become lawyers and judges. As part of the conference, Justice Walker, Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget McCormack, and Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Rhonda Wood recorded an episode of their podcast, “Lady Justice: Women of the Court.”

Former Supreme Court Justice Margaret Workman and Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Judge Tera Salango also participated. The name of the conference comes from the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg’s answer to a question about when there will be enough women on the Supreme Court. She said, “When there are nine.” ►



November

Juror Appreciation Month

November 17

The Supreme Court released a new jury orientation video and updated juror handbook in conjunction with a proclamation making November “Juror Appreciation Month” in West Virginia. The announcement in the Supreme Court Courtroom included comments from Chief Justice Evan Jenkins, Justice Tim Armstead, Justice John Hutchison, Justice William R. Wooton, Fifth Judicial Circuit (Calhoun, Jackson, Mason, and Roane Counties) Judge Anita Harold Ashley and Kanawha County Circuit Clerk Cathy Gatson. The speakers talked about the importance of jury service and thanked the thousands of West Virginians who serve on juries each year. ▼



MENTAL HYGIENE CONFERENCE

November 3

The 2021 Mental Hygiene Conference provided training for attorneys serving as mental hygiene commissioners in West Virginia. Circuit courts have jurisdiction over matters related to involuntary commitment, guardianship, and conservatorship and often handle these cases through the appointment of mental hygiene commissioners, who conduct hearings and make recommendations to circuit judges. ►



Panel discussion about the Mental Hygiene Registry with (L to R) Robyn Clark, Mental Hygiene Registry Specialist; Brittany Booth, Mental Hygiene Data Quality Analyst; Lisa Tackett, Director of Court Services; and Pepper Arrowood, Family Court/Mental Hygiene Services Manager.

December

Justice Hutchison Visits Students

December 6

Justice John A. Hutchison traveled to Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School to talk with social studies students about the West Virginia court system.



Governor Appoints Judges to New Intermediate Court of Appeals

December 28

Governor Jim Justice appointed three attorneys to the new Intermediate Court of Appeals. Governor Justice appointed Huntington attorney Thomas E. Scarr to a term ending Dec. 31, 2024; Charleston attorney Daniel W. Greear to a term ending Dec. 31, 2026; and Wheeling attorney Donald A. Nickerson, Jr., to a term ending Dec. 31, 2028. Mr. Nickerson later withdrew and Governor Justice appointed Charles Lorensen to a term ending Dec. 31, 2028.



Juvenile Justice Commission Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

December 14

The Juvenile Justice Commission celebrated its tenth anniversary. The commission ensures the court system provides justice in a way that protects the children over which the state has jurisdiction. Supreme Court Chief Justice Evan Jenkins, Justice Tim Armstead, Justice John Hutchison, and Justice William R. Wooton attended, as did former Justice Margaret Workman and Nancy Szilvasi, Benjamin Hill's mother. Hill's unexplained death at the Industrial Home for Youth led former Justice Workman to establish the commission in 2011. ►



COVID-19 Response

The West Virginia Constitution mandates that the courts of this state shall be open and that justice shall be administered without delay. When COVID-19 became a pandemic in 2020, simply closing courts was not an option. West Virginia judicial employees learned to perform many functions virtually and to carry out duties that had to be completed in-person in ways that protected the health and safety of the public and employees. In 2021, in-person hearings resumed as COVID-19 precautions allowed.

During the summer of 2021, Chief Justice Evan Jenkins personally visited all 55 county courthouses in West Virginia to thank employees for keeping courts open and accessible during unprecedented times and to let employees know how much their work was appreciated.



Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority

The West Virginia Legislature created the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority in 2001 to assist county governments with the modification of existing courthouse facilities and the construction of new courthouse structures. According to W. Va. Code §29-26-1, the authority consists of twelve voting members and eight advisory members. Hancock County Assessor Joseph M. Alongi currently serves as the chair of the board.

The grants are funded by fees charged in county courthouse offices, not tax dollars. Each year, the authority solicits grant applications from all counties. The maximum support available to each county is \$100,000 annually. The grants require a 20 percent match from county funds.

For further information on the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority, contact Melissa Smith at 304-558-5435 or melissa.smith@wvcfia.com, or visit the website at www.cfia.wv.gov.



Randolph County
Rebuild sidewalks, install ramp



Upshur County
Roof on the old jail



Harrison County
Replace 40 windows and install window flashing
(windows to be installed in 2022)

Courthouse Facilities Grant Awards:

County	Improvement	Project Cost	Award Amount
Barbour	Repair roof	\$144,615	\$100,000
Boone	Repair exterior steps, mortar joints, wall	\$96,000	\$76,800
Brooke	Refurbish existing elevator	\$125,000	\$100,000
Cabell	Repair side of courthouse near old jail	\$91,000	\$72,800
Clay	Repair roof on original courthouse	\$37,276	\$29,820
Fayette	Phase Three of HVAC system replacement	\$120,000	\$96,000
Grant	Replace three sets of doors on entries	\$70,300	\$56,240
Hampshire	Replace two main doors and one basement door	\$95,716	\$46,572
Harrison	Replace 40 windows and install window flashing	\$70,000	\$56,000
Jackson	Phase Two of HVAC system replacement	\$150,000	\$100,000
Kanawha	Modernize elevator	\$127,667	\$100,000
McDowell	Phase Two window replacement	\$132,000	\$99,000
Mercer	Repair and replace windows	\$145,000	\$100,000
Mineral	Replace boiler system	\$74,000	\$59,200
Mingo	Phase One install fire suppression system	\$516,000	\$92,400
Monroe	Install ADA-compliant lift in annex	\$96,050	\$72,037
Ohio	Replace interior ceiling tiles and lights	\$135,000	\$100,000
Raleigh	Address water infiltration on exterior wall	\$33,500	\$26,800
Randolph	Rebuild sidewalks, install ramp	\$194,050	\$100,000
Summers	Phase Two sidewalk repair, install lift in jury box	\$106,500	\$85,200
Tucker	Repaint brick on historic jail	\$98,000	\$78,400
Tyler	Install elevator in new annex	\$224,440	\$100,000
Upshur	Replace roof on old jail	\$121,299	\$97,039
Wayne	Replace pneumatic controls on HVAC	\$179,111	\$100,000
Wirt	Repair plaster on interior walls and ceiling	\$35,420	\$26,565
Wood	Replace structure holding bell	\$32,500	\$26,000
Wyoming	Install ADA-compliant elevator shaft	\$227,415	\$100,000
Totals		\$3,477,859	\$2,096,873

Court Security Grant Awards

Court Security Board

The Court Security Board decides how money in the Court Security Fund is spent. "A magistrate court shall deposit \$5 from each of the criminal proceedings fees collected . . . in the Court Security Fund." W. Va. Code § 50-3-2(a). The fund is used to pay for crucial security needs in counties. The fund is managed by the West Virginia Division of Administrative Services/Justice and Community Services, and the board is chaired by the Supreme Court Administrative Director. W. Va. Code §§ 51-3-14 to 17.

Board members include the following:

Circuit Judge David W. Hummel, Jr., Second Judicial Circuit (Marshall, Tyler, and Wetzel Counties)

Family Court Judge (Vacant)

Magistrate Carol Wolfe (Gilmer County)

L. David Duffield, Esquire (Cabell County)

Circuit Clerk Brian Gaudet (Upshur County)

Sheriff Thomas J. Howard (Ohio County)

Captain Shallon Oglesby, West Virginia State Police (Kanawha County)



In 2021, a total of \$399,528 was awarded in two rounds of grant review to 12 county commissions to enhance the security of county court facilities. The Supreme Court received an award to provide mass notification to all 1,500 court employees statewide. Grant amounts vary each year.

The Court Security Board made the following awards in 2021:

Recipient	Amount Approved
Braxton County Commission	\$49,421
Cabell County Commission	\$40,800
Gilmer County Commission	\$22,032
Harrison County Commission	\$4,158
Kanawha County Commission	\$71,121
Logan County Commission	\$40,860
Morgan County Commission	\$97,133
Pendleton County Commission	\$19,311
Pleasants County Commission	\$4,000
Ritchie County Commission	\$5,934
Upshur County Commission	\$14,320
Wyoming County Commission	\$19,484
Supreme Court of Appeals	\$10,955
Total	\$399,528.00

Court Board and Committee Members

Board of Law Examiners

Members are attorneys who evaluate educational background, credentials, character and fitness, and competence of each applicant for admission to the practice of law in West Virginia under the Rules for Admission to the Practice of Law. They are appointed by the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Susan R. Snowden, President (Martinsburg)
Ancil G. Ramey, Vice President (Huntington)
Katherine B. Capito (Charleston)
Lee Murray Hall (Huntington)
Marc B. Chernenko (Wellsburg)
Brent Everett Wear (Wheeling)
Jason C. Pizatella (Charleston)

Judicial Investigation Commission

The Judicial Investigation Commission determines “whether probable cause exists to formally charge a judge with a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct promulgated by the Supreme Court of Appeals to govern the ethical conduct of judges or that a judge, because of advancing years and attendant physical and mental incapacity, should not continue to serve.” Rule 1, Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure.

Circuit Judge Alan D. Moats, Chair, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit (Barbour and Taylor Counties)
Circuit Judge Bridget Cohee, Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties)
Circuit Judge Jason Wharton, Fourth Judicial Circuit (Wirt and Wood Counties)
Senior Status Circuit Judge James J. Rowe (Greenbrier County)
Family Court Judge Patricia A. Keller, Sixth Family Court Circuit (Cabell County)
Magistrate Michael D. Flanigan (Mercer County)
F. Layton Cottrill, Jr. (Huntington)
Margaret O’Neal (Charleston)
Dr. Cynthia Persily (Charleston)

Staff Counsel: Teresa A. Tarr
Staff Deputy Counsel: Brian J. Lanham
Staff Investigator: David Hudson
Staff Executive Assistant: Pam Schafer

Judicial Hearing Board

The Judicial Hearing Board has the authority “to conduct hearings on formal complaints filed by the Judicial Investigation Commission and to make recommendations to the Supreme Court of Appeals regarding disposition of those complaints.” Rule 3, Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure.

Circuit Judge Michael D. Lorensen, Chair, Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties)
Circuit Judge Paul T. Farrell, Sixth Judicial Circuit (Cabell County)
Circuit Judge Andrew Dimlich, Tenth Judicial Circuit (Raleigh County)
Senior Status Judge Russell M. Clawges, Jr. (Monongalia County)
Family Court Judge Glen Stotler, Twenty-Third Family Court Circuit (Hampshire, Mineral, and Morgan Counties)
Magistrate Richard G. Postalwait (Calhoun County)
William H. “Bill” Baker (Daniels)
Michael Todorovich (Clendenin)
Amber Urtso Sellaro (Westover)

Staff Counsel: Ancil G. Ramey

Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Act

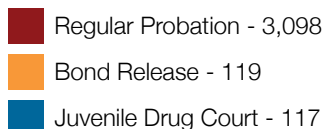
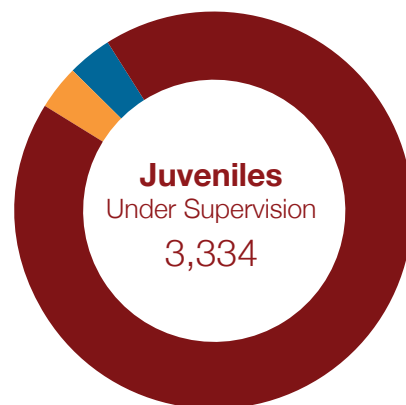
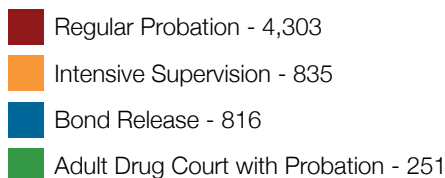
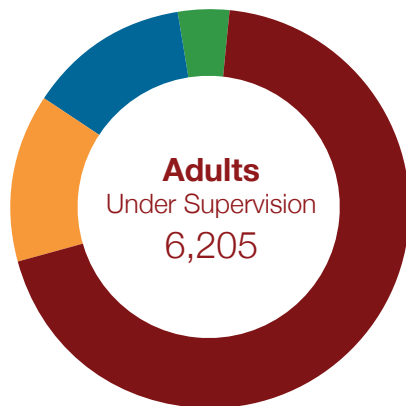
The Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Act (W. Va. Code § 62-1D) requires the chief justice to designate five active circuit court judges who individually hear and rule upon applications for orders authorizing the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications. The terms of the judges listed below run July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Circuit Judge Anita Harold Ashley, Fifth Judicial Circuit (Calhoun, Jackson, Mason, and Roane Counties)
Circuit Judge Christopher D. Chiles, Sixth Judicial Circuit (Cabell County)
Circuit Judge Michael D. Lorensen, Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties)
Circuit Judge Michael J. Olejasz, First Judicial Circuit (Brooke, Hancock, and Ohio Counties)
Circuit Judge William J. Sadler, Ninth Judicial Circuit (Mercer County)

Division of Probation Services

The Administrative Office's Division of Probation Services oversees training and establishes policies for 316 probation officers throughout West Virginia and oversees all treatment courts (see pages 40-41), the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, and relevant databases.

316 Probation Officers in West Virginia



Probation officers provide community supervision and other services to thousands of offenders, both adult and juvenile, ranging from status offenses (e.g., incorrigibility, truancy) to serious felonies, including sexual offenses. In addition, many provide similar supervision to individuals who are placed on bond pending the outcome of their case.

Of the 316 probation officers, 19 are School-Based Probation Officers who work in county school systems to assist youth who are having truancy issues. These officers worked, in some capacity, with 4,544 youth during the 2020-2021 school year.

Probation officer job responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ensure compliance with probation and treatment requirements;
- Conduct visits with offenders/probationers in their office and/or at the individuals' homes, workplaces, schools, or facilities (e.g., jail, treatment);
- Arrest non-compliant adult probationers;
- Perform drug screens;
- Conduct home searches;
- Serve as members of various treatment or multi-disciplinary teams; and
- Testify in court hearings.

Probation officers write reports for judges. In 2021, officers who supervised adults completed approximately 2,544 pre-sentence investigation reports. Those who supervised juveniles prepared 79 pre-disposition reports, participated in 3,603 multi-disciplinary team meetings, and held 4,680 90-day case reviews for juvenile cases.

At the end of 2021, the Division of Probation Service was actively supervising 9,539 individuals. Of those, 7,401 were on regular probation (4,303 adults and 3,098 juveniles). An additional 233 adult drug court and 117 juvenile drug court participants were supervised but were not on probation (e.g., pre-adjudicatory, diversion, etc.). Probation officers also supervised 835 sexual and child abuse offenders who are on intensive/extended supervision. In 2021, over 100 sex offenders and child abusers were released from the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation on extended supervision for probation officers to supervise.

West Virginia Law Library

The West Virginia State Law Library was created by Virginia statute in 1849. Originally intended for use by government officials, the Law Library is now an integral part of the judicial system and provides legal information to all West Virginia citizens.

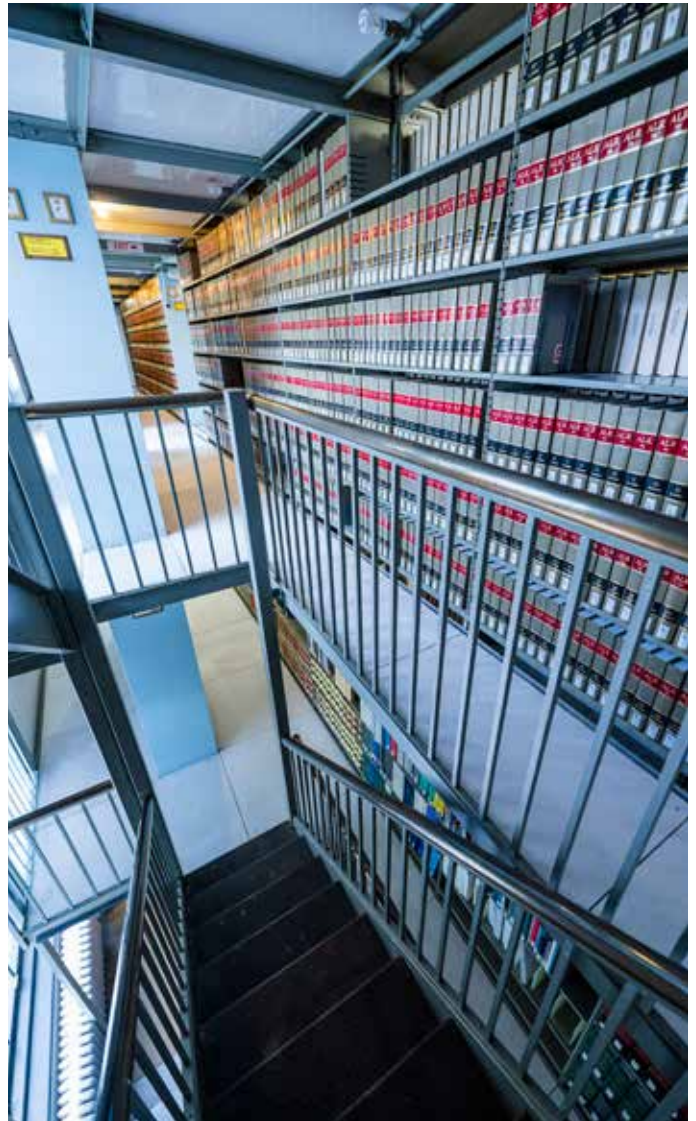
Its primary mission is to assist the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, the statewide unified court system, and its judicial staff in carrying out the administration of justice. In addition, the Law Library serves government agencies, the local legal community, state correctional institution inmates, and the general public.

The library houses an excellent collection of primary legal sources with an emphasis on West Virginia case law, code, and state rules. The collection includes more than 150,000 volumes or volume equivalents, audio-visual materials, and public access to digital legal information databases. It is a partial Federal Depository Library with government documents in electronic, paper, and microfiche formats.

Under the direction of Kaye L. Maerz, State Law Librarian, the library is open to the public five days a week, providing access to electronic databases as well as an assortment of federal and state print materials, case reporters, statutes, regulations, legislative materials, treatises, and periodicals. A staff of three professional librarians and one paraprofessional provides research and reference assistance, interlibrary loans for court personnel, and a fee-based document delivery service to the public. Patrons may request legal information in person or by e-mail, phone, or fax.

The library has free access to the Internet at public terminals, free Wi-Fi, and free onsite public access to Westlaw, Lexis, and HeinOnline legal information databases. The library offers on-site access to a variety of other electronic and physical offerings, including *Shepard's Citation Service*, *West Virginia Law Review*, *Martindale-Hubbell law directory*, West Virginia Mealey's Litigation NewsBriefs, and state newspapers *The Charleston Gazette-Mail* and *The State Journal*.

The library is in Room E-404 of the East Wing of the Capitol. For more information, please call (304) 558-2607 or visit <http://www.courtswv.gov/public-resources/law-library/law-library-home.html>.



2021 Court Association Officers

Judicial Association



President: H. Charles Carl, III, Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit (Hampshire, Hardy, and Pendleton Counties)

Vice President: Jennifer Bailey, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County)

Secretary: Anita Harold Ashley, Fifth Judicial Circuit (Calhoun, Jackson, Mason, and Roane Counties)

Treasurer: Paul T. Farrell, Sixth Judicial Circuit (Cabell County)

Magistrate Association



President: Riley Barb (Tucker County)

Secretary: Carol L. Wolfe (Gilmer County)

Treasurer: Brenda Marshall (Wood County)

1st District Vice-President: William Hicks (Hancock County)

District Board Representative: Michael Griffin (Tyler County)

2nd District Vice-President: Joseph Shelton (Kanawha County)

District Board Representatives: Ronald White (Roane County) and C. David Roberts (Wirt County)

3rd District Vice-President: Kevin Miller (Monroe County)

District Board Representatives: Michael Flanigan (Mercer County), Joseph Mendez (Logan County), and William "Frank" Holroyd (Mercer County)

Court Reporters Association



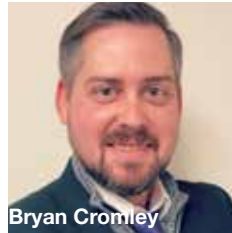
President: Tracy Herron-Rice

Vice-President: Marcy Chandler

Secretary: Sandy Kelley

Treasurer: Sheri Daisey

Family Court Association



President: Bryan Cromley, Fifth Family Court Circuit (Jackson, Mason, and Wirt Counties)

President-Elect: Peter Conley, Eighteenth Family Court Circuit (Doddridge and Harrison Counties)

Secretary: Jara Howard, Sixth Family Court Circuit (Cabell County)

Treasurer: Patricia Hill, Twentieth Family Court Circuit (Monongalia and Preston Counties)

Association of Probation Officers



President: Chris Perry (Wayne County)

Vice President: Chris Johnson (Mason County)

Secretary: Erika Elswick (Kanawha County)

Treasurer: Danielle Hofe (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties)

Board Members

Daniel "D.R." Beckner (Wayne County)

Beth Wood (Putnam County)

Seth Haines (Mineral County)

Mike Haley (Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, and Webster Counties)

Lon Kelly (Kanawha County)

Alisha Lawson (Calhoun, Jackson, Mason, and Roane Counties)

Kevin Runyon (Logan County)

Jerry Swanson (Lincoln County)

Jessica Trippett (Wirt and Wood Counties)

Jerrold White (Fayette County)

Cheyenne Willis (Raleigh County)



Justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia 2021

Justice John A. Hutchison

Appointed December 2018
Elected June 2020
Raleigh County

Justice William R. Wooton

Elected June 2020
Raleigh County

Justice Beth Walker

Elected May 2016
Kanawha County

Chief Justice Evan Jenkins

Appointed August 2018
Elected November 2018
Cabell County

Justice Tim Armstead

Appointed August 2018
Elected November 2018
Elected June 2020
Kanawha County

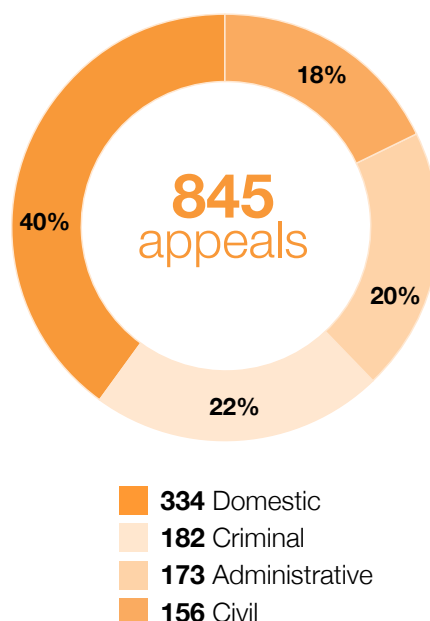
Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

2021 Statistical Report

Appeals by Right

	New Filings	Disposed Cases	Clearance Rate
Administrative	29	46	159%
Administrative - Tax	7	3	43%
Workers' Compensation	137	139	101%
Subtotal Administrative	173	188	109%
Abuse & Neglect	306	307	100%
Family	25	30	120%
Domestic Violence	3	7	233%
Subtotal Domestic	334	344	103%
Criminal - Felony	114	128	112%
Criminal - Misdemeanor	2	5	250%
Criminal - Other	6	9	150%
Post Conviction	60	60	100%
Subtotal Criminal	182	202	111%
Civil - Torts, Contracts, Property	109	123	113%
Civil - Probate	0	3	0%
Civil - Other	47	37	79%
Subtotal Civil	156	163	104%
Total Appeals By Right	845	897	106%

Appeals by Right Distribution



Original Jurisdiction/Other

	New Filings	Disposed Cases	Clearance Rate
Lawyer Disciplinary	36	41	114%
Lawyer Admissions	0	0	0%
Judicial Disciplinary	2	3	150%
Subtotal Disc./Admissions	38	44	116%
Certified Question	10	5	50%
Subtotal Certified Question	10	5	50%
Habeas Corpus	37	34	92%
Certiorari	0	0	0%
Mandamus	46	48	104%
Mandamus/Prohibition	8	12	150%
Prohibition	61	63	103%
Subtotal Extraordinary Remedies	152	157	103%
TOTAL OJ/OTHER	200	206	103%
2021 Total Filings	1045	1103	106%

2021 Visiting Judges

When a Supreme Court Justice is unable to serve in a case due to reasons such as illness or disqualification, Article III Section 2 of the West Virginia Constitution allows the chief justice to assign a circuit court judge or senior status judge to serve. The visiting judge then participates in all private conferences and hearings and votes on that case. The visiting judges in 2021 were as follows:



Judge John D. Beane,
Fourth Judicial Circuit
(Wirt and Wood Counties)

January 13, 2021
Rule 20 argument in *In Re: B.W.*,
No. 19-0715.



Judge Richard Craig Tatterson,
Fifth Judicial Circuit (Calhoun,
Jackson, Mason, and Roane Counties)

March 16, 2021
Rule 19 Argument Docket: *Lisa
Wilkinson, et al. v. West Virginia State
Office of the Governor, et al.*
No. 20-0295.



Judge Thomas H. Ewing,
Twelfth Judicial Circuit
(Fayette County)

March 17, 2021
Rule 20 Argument Docket: *Sarah L.
Birchfield v. Zen's Development, LLC,*
et al. No. 20-0075.



Judge Michael J. Olejasz,
First Judicial Circuit (Brooke,
Hancock, and Ohio Counties)

April 21, 2021
Rule 19 Argument Docket: *SER Hope
Clinic, PLLC, et al. v. Hon. Warren R.
McGraw, et. al.* No. 20-0410.



Judge Jennifer P. Dent,
Eleventh Judicial Circuit
(Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties)

September 15, 2021
Rule 19 Argument Docket: *SRC
Holdings, LLC v. Public Service
Commission, et al.*, No. 21-0233,
*and In the Matter of: Hon. Louise E.
Goldston, Judge of the 13th Family
Court Circuit*, No. 20-0742.

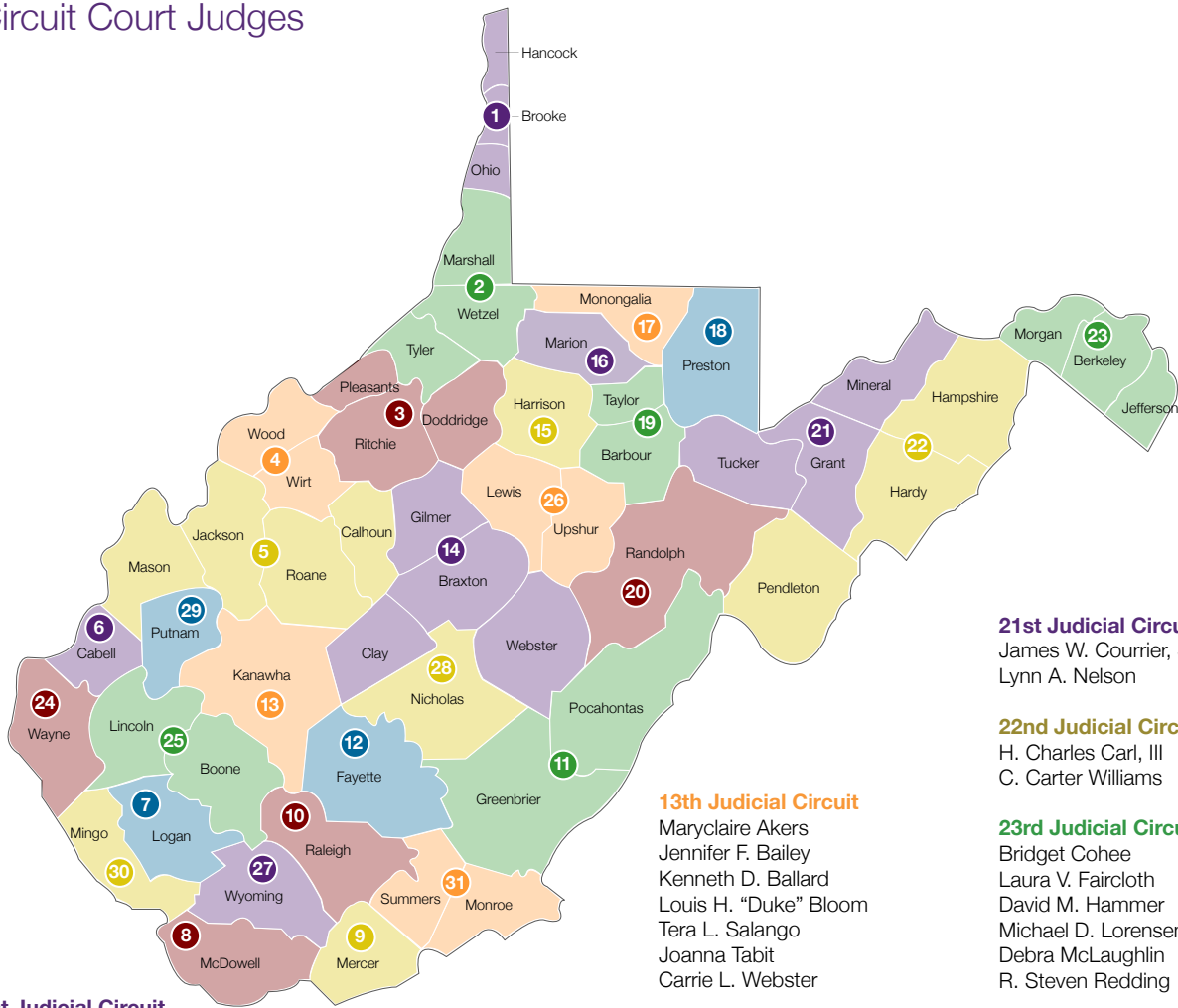


Judge Maryclaire Akers,
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit
(Kanawha County)

September 29, 2021
Rule 19 Argument Docket: *Lawyer
Disciplinary Board v. Joshua Cain*,
No. 20-0252.

Circuit Courts

Circuit Court Judges



1st Judicial Circuit

Jason A. Cuomo
Michael J. Olejasz
David J. Sims
Ronald E. Wilson

2nd Judicial Circuit

Jeffrey Cramer
David W. Hummel, Jr.

3rd Judicial Circuit

Timothy L. Sweeney

4th Judicial Circuit

John D. Beane
Robert A. Waters
Jason Wharton

5th Judicial Circuit

Anita Harold Ashley
Lora Dyer
Richard Craig Tatterson

6th Judicial Circuit

Christopher Chiles
Paul T. Farrell
Alfred E. Ferguson
Gregory L. Howard

7th Judicial Circuit

Joshua Butcher
Eric H. O'Briant

8th Judicial Circuit

Edward J. Kornish
Rudolph J. Murensky, II

9th Judicial Circuit

William J. Sadler
Derek C. Swope
Mark Wills

10th Judicial Circuit

Robert A. Burnside, Jr.
Andrew Dimlich
H. L. Kirkpatrick III
Darl W. Poling

11th Judicial Circuit

Jennifer P. Dent
Robert E. Richardson

12th Judicial Circuit

Paul M. Blake, Jr.
Thomas H. Ewing

13th Judicial Circuit

Maryclaire Akers
Jennifer F. Bailey
Kenneth D. Ballard
Louis H. "Duke" Bloom
Tera L. Salango
Joanna Tabit
Carrie L. Webster

14th Judicial Circuit

Jack Alsop
Richard A. Facemire

15th Judicial Circuit

Thomas A. Bedell
James A. Matish
Christopher McCarthy

16th Judicial Circuit

David R. Janes
Patrick N. Wilson

17th Judicial Circuit

Phillip D. Gaujot
Cindy Scott
Susan B. Tucker

18th Judicial Circuit

Steven L. Shaffer

19th Judicial Circuit

Alan D. Moats
Shawn D. Nines

20th Judicial Circuit

David H. Wilmoth

21st Judicial Circuit

James W. Courier, Jr.
Lynn A. Nelson

22nd Judicial Circuit

H. Charles Carl, III
C. Carter Williams

23rd Judicial Circuit

Bridget Cohee
Laura V. Faircloth
David M. Hammer
Michael D. Lorensen
Debra McLaughlin
R. Steven Redding

24th Judicial Circuit

Jason J. Fry
James H. Young, Jr.

25th Judicial Circuit

Jay M. Hoke
Stacy L. Nowicki-Eldridge

26th Judicial Circuit

Kurt Hall
Jacob E. Reger

27th Judicial Circuit

Micheal M. Cochrane

28th Judicial Circuit

Stephen O. Callaghan

29th Judicial Circuit

Joseph Reeder
Phillip M. Stowers

30th Judicial Circuit

Miki J. Thompson

31st Judicial Circuit

Robert A. Irons

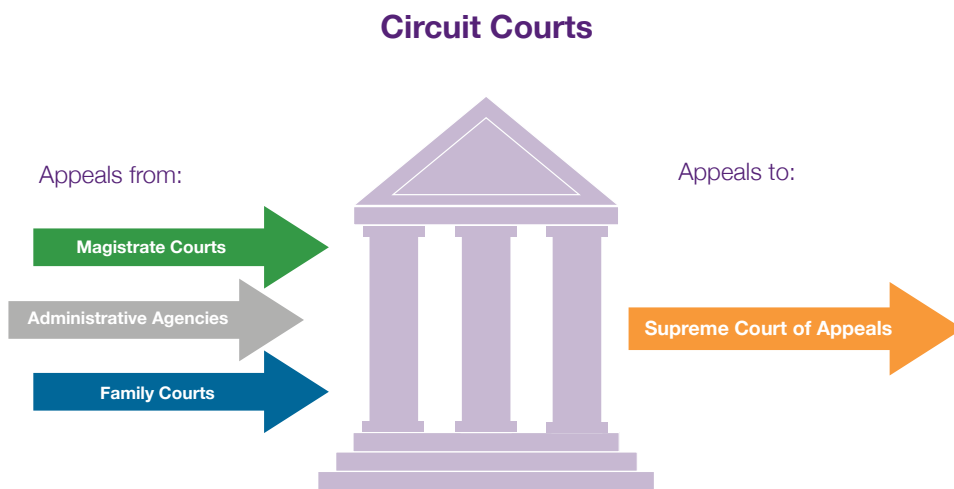
Circuit courts are West Virginia's only general jurisdiction trial courts of record

Circuit courts receive appeals from magistrate courts, municipal courts, and administrative agencies. Circuit courts also hear appeals of family court decisions unless both parties agree to appeal directly to the Supreme Court of Appeals. Circuit courts receive recommended orders from judicial officers who hear mental hygiene matters.

JURISDICTION:

- All civil cases at law over \$7,500 with limited exceptions;
- All civil cases in equity;
- Proceedings in *habeas corpus*, *mandamus*, *quo warranto*, *prohibition*, and *certiorari*; and
- All felonies and misdemeanors.

The Supreme Court of Appeals receives appeals of circuit court decisions.



In addition to their regular caseload, circuit judges also serve on the **Mass Litigation Panel**, the **Business Court Division**, the **Court Improvement Board**, and the **Juvenile Justice Commission**. Circuit judges also preside over **adult, juvenile, and family treatment courts** and are active in **civic education programs**. They receive no additional compensation for this work.

For more information about circuit courts, see <http://www.courtswv.gov/lower-courts/circuit-courts.html>. A county-by-county list of circuit court judges in West Virginia, along with their office telephone and fax numbers, is available at <http://www.courtswv.gov/public-resources/court-information-by-county.html>.

2021

CIRCUIT COURT SNAPSHOT

55 | 31

Counties | Circuits

75

Judges

Elected to eight-year terms
in non-partisan races

Must be attorneys who have
practiced law in West Virginia
for at least five years

40,987

Total Cases Filed in 2021

52%

Civil Cases

27%

Criminal Cases

20%

Juvenile Matters

2021 Circuit Court Criminal Case Filings

County	Total	Felony	Magistrate Appeals	Misdemeanor	Other Criminal Cases
Barbour	87	84	0	3	0
Berkeley	562	343	2	3	214
Boone	78	41	1	3	33
Braxton	74	53	3	1	17
Brooke	108	68	0	8	32
Cabell	722	370	7	18	327
Calhoun	32	23	0	2	7
Clay	65	43	5	2	15
Doddridge	65	45	1	4	15
Fayette	277	234	3	5	35
Gilmer	34	20	1	0	13
Grant	53	51	0	2	0
Greenbrier	142	109	3	3	27
Hampshire	203	132	1	2	68
Hancock	66	51	1	0	14
Hardy	70	47	2	0	21
Harrison	356	220	2	6	128
Jackson	157	127	1	6	23
Jefferson	129	120	1	8	0
Kanawha	816	404	6	115	291
Lewis	99	90	0	1	8
Lincoln	88	68	0	15	5
Logan	455	264	0	16	175
Marion	348	293	12	7	36
Marshall	84	82	2	0	0
Mason	124	70	0	12	42
McDowell	227	126	1	10	90
Mercer	806	290	12	15	489
Mineral	138	75	2	3	58
Mingo	261	171	0	6	84
Monongalia	388	350	10	4	24
Monroe	76	56	0	3	17
Morgan	99	65	3	0	31
Nicholas	118	83	1	2	32
Ohio	288	113	2	3	170
Pendleton	47	36	1	0	10
Pleasants	36	29	0	0	7
Pocahontas	36	27	1	0	8
Preston	254	128	2	7	117
Putnam	224	161	10	9	44
Raleigh	1,041	463	30	157	391
Randolph	204	158	0	10	36
Ritchie	53	51	0	0	2
Roane	192	99	0	5	88
Summers	80	69	0	2	9
Taylor	85	70	0	0	15
Tucker	18	12	0	2	4
Tyler	47	24	0	13	10
Upshur	109	80	1	20	8
Wayne	253	163	2	26	62
Webster	41	34	1	0	6
Wetzel	97	95	1	1	0
Wirt	14	14	0	0	0
Wood	530	313	5	1	211
Wyoming	134	91	1	40	2
Total	11,190	6,898	140	581	3,571

2021 Circuit Court Juvenile Case Filings

County	Total	Child Neglect/Abuse	Delinquency	Status Offense
Barbour	120	109	11	0
Berkeley	428	289	102	37
Boone	184	97	28	59
Braxton	81	71	10	0
Brooke	46	30	14	2
Cabell	555	201	279	75
Calhoun	49	37	6	6
Clay	41	41	0	0
Doddridge	41	34	6	1
Fayette	211	194	16	1
Gilmer	67	52	15	0
Grant	48	33	14	1
Greenbrier	105	76	12	17
Hampshire	119	107	10	2
Hancock	104	58	45	1
Hardy	155	129	21	5
Harrison	473	320	61	92
Jackson	171	137	18	16
Jefferson	143	101	32	10
Kanawha	761	698	38	25
Lewis	140	126	11	3
Lincoln	86	52	17	17
Logan	218	156	43	19
Marion	221	161	33	27
Marshall	117	49	54	14
Mason	139	76	30	33
McDowell	73	63	8	2
Mercer	330	208	67	55
Mineral	89	58	26	5
Mingo	83	75	3	5
Monongalia	198	135	34	29
Monroe	52	25	17	10
Morgan	92	63	10	19
Nicholas	171	139	12	20
Ohio	188	171	11	6
Pendleton	16	11	5	0
Pleasants	41	21	15	5
Pocahontas	25	22	2	1
Preston	133	122	6	5
Putnam	232	109	31	92
Raleigh	399	195	112	92
Randolph	151	91	16	44
Ritchie	55	34	10	11
Roane	89	63	18	8
Summers	54	43	10	1
Taylor	121	114	7	0
Tucker	19	7	10	2
Tyler	32	27	5	0
Upshur	88	80	7	1
Wayne	137	92	18	27
Webster	39	36	2	1
Wetzel	47	46	1	0
Wirt	40	33	3	4
Wood	364	291	47	26
Wyoming	106	68	30	8
Total	8,287	5,876	1,469	942

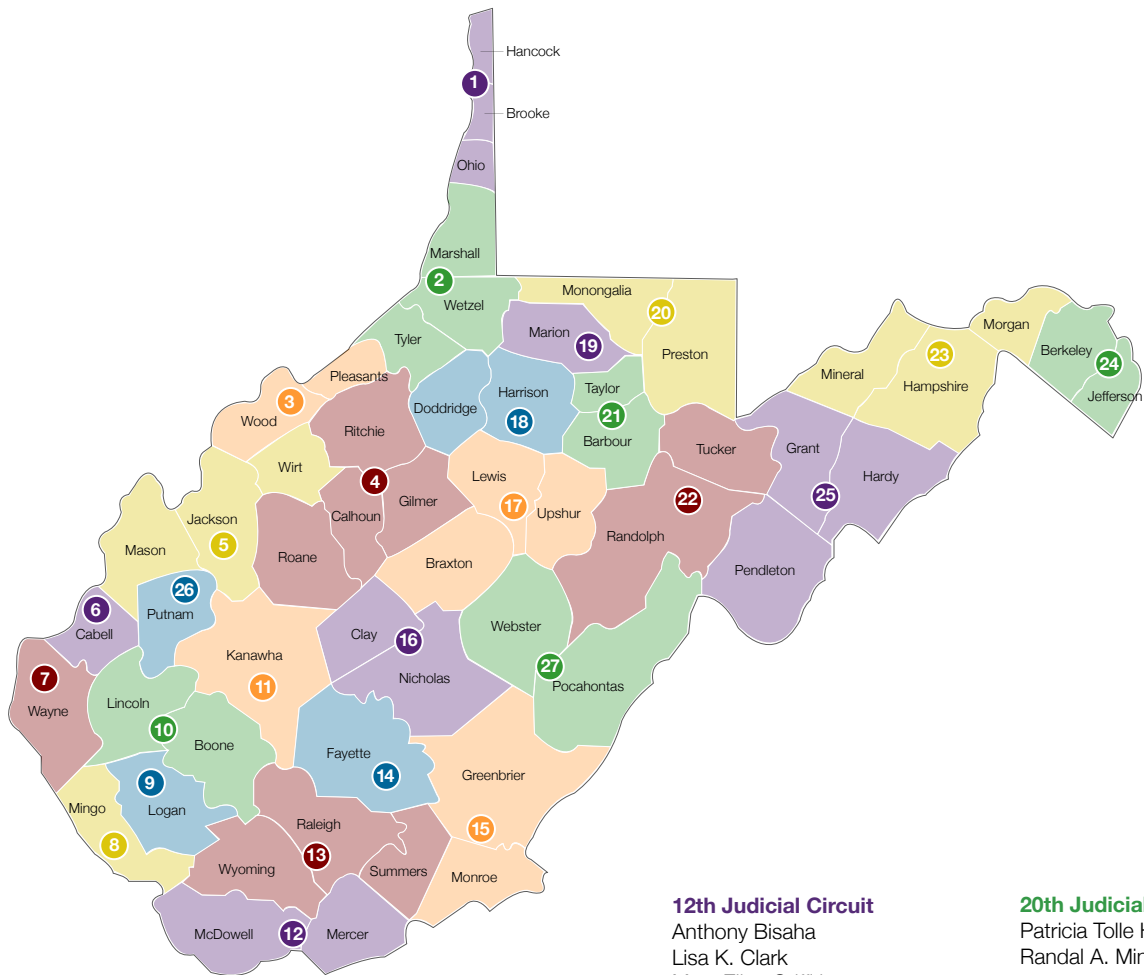
2021 Circuit Court Civil Case Filings

County	Total	Admin. Agency Appeals	Adoption	Domestic Violence	General Civil
Barbour	127	0	27	1	52
Berkeley	1,172	4	128	0	413
Boone	255	0	51	0	81
Braxton	138	1	33	0	37
Brooke	170	1	12	0	80
Cabell	1,809	0	124	0	488
Calhoun	80	0	16	0	21
Clay	107	0	36	0	31
Doddridge	103	0	17	0	34
Fayette	386	1	51	0	142
Gilmer	59	0	9	0	24
Grant	89	1	8	0	36
Greenbrier	301	0	34	0	132
Hampshire	162	1	37	0	64
Hancock	186	0	9	0	84
Hardy	125	0	22	0	39
Harrison	821	0	120	0	300
Jackson	298	2	55	0	97
Jefferson	595	6	29	0	189
Kanawha	2,796	77	301	0	1,109
Lewis	645	1	19	0	84
Lincoln	294	1	29	2	79
Logan	465	2	65	0	166
Marion	561	0	62	0	189
Marshall	440	0	10	0	102
Mason	249	0	34	0	74
McDowell	232	0	19	0	82
Mercer	788	0	75	0	251
Mineral	157	0	19	0	65
Mingo	272	0	40	0	168
Monongalia	1,223	3	82	0	375
Monroe	76	1	15	0	29
Morgan	155	0	25	0	80
Nicholas	272	1	45	0	101
Ohio	713	0	28	0	213
Pendleton	35	0	7	0	13
Pleasants	59	0	13	0	17
Pocahontas	94	1	5	0	42
Preston	277	0	65	0	111
Putnam	491	2	62	0	205
Raleigh	931	2	119	0	379
Randolph	279	0	32	0	120
Ritchie	100	0	27	0	36
Roane	144	0	28	0	47
Summers	100	0	7	0	41
Taylor	119	0	32	0	44
Tucker	53	0	5	0	32
Tyler	79	0	7	0	24
Upshur	233	0	30	0	86
Wayne	349	0	63	0	112
Webster	76	0	19	0	26
Wetzel	177	0	17	0	42
Wirt	42	0	15	0	9
Wood	1,353	0	95	1	329
Wyoming	198	1	21	0	113
Total	21,510	109	2,355	4	7,339

County	Guardianship	Magistrate Appeals	Mental Health	Other Civil Cases	Other Domestic Relations	Personal Safety Appeals
Barbour	8	2	12	25	0	0
Berkeley	59	4	261	282	0	21
Boone	11	3	65	44	0	0
Braxton	15	0	32	20	0	0
Brooke	4	2	41	27	0	3
Cabell	65	19	1,035	73	0	5
Calhoun	6	0	26	11	0	0
Clay	11	2	13	14	0	0
Doddridge	1	2	29	17	0	3
Fayette	19	6	93	74	0	0
Gilmer	1	1	1	23	0	0
Grant	17	1	17	5	4	0
Greenbrier	17	6	59	48	0	5
Hampshire	11	5	25	19	0	0
Hancock	12	1	36	44	0	0
Hardy	8	0	17	39	0	0
Harrison	22	10	278	91	0	0
Jackson	19	4	72	49	0	0
Jefferson	21	10	76	263	0	1
Kanawha	106	160	593	433	0	17
Lewis	2	7	493	39	0	0
Lincoln	18	3	64	96	0	2
Logan	13	4	61	154	0	0
Marion	26	11	146	111	10	6
Marshall	10	2	253	40	23	0
Mason	13	2	75	48	0	3
McDowell	14	0	72	45	0	0
Mercer	71	12	256	106	0	17
Mineral	10	3	19	41	0	0
Mingo	9	4	39	9	0	3
Monongalia	23	44	282	407	0	7
Monroe	4	3	4	20	0	0
Morgan	10	3	16	21	0	0
Nicholas	11	3	58	53	0	0
Ohio	19	4	356	88	0	5
Pendleton	3	1	6	5	0	0
Pleasants	3	0	8	18	0	0
Pocahontas	0	3	18	20	0	5
Preston	12	2	52	33	0	2
Putnam	33	9	95	85	0	0
Raleigh	35	15	230	151	0	0
Randolph	7	14	51	51	0	4
Ritchie	3	1	20	13	0	0
Roane	12	2	37	17	0	1
Summers	10	1	26	15	0	0
Taylor	4	0	26	13	0	0
Tucker	6	0	2	8	0	0
Tyler	4	0	16	28	0	0
Upshur	8	2	34	72	0	1
Wayne	29	4	74	67	0	0
Webster	7	0	12	12	0	0
Wetzel	8	1	81	25	3	0
Wirt	5	1	2	9	0	1
Wood	29	8	721	155	0	15
Wyoming	17	8	28	7	2	1
Total	921	415	6,514	3,683	42	128

Family Courts

Family Court Judges



1st Judicial Circuit

Joyce D. Chernenko
Heather Wood

2nd Judicial Circuit

Robert C. Hicks

3rd Judicial Circuit

Ellen Smith
C. Darren Tallman

4th Judicial Circuit

Steven Jones

5th Judicial Circuit

Bryan Cromley
Constance J. Thomas

6th Judicial Circuit

Jara Howard
Patricia A. Keller
Jason Spears

7th Judicial Circuit

Sean Maynard

8th Judicial Circuit

Sabrina Deskins

9th Judicial Circuit

Kelly Gilmore Codispoti
Christopher R. Workman

10th Judicial Circuit

Bobby Hale
Ronald G. Salmons

11th Judicial Circuit

Jim Douglas
Robert M. Montgomery
Julie A. Pence
Brittany Ranson Stonestreet
Lera K. VanMeter

12th Judicial Circuit

Anthony Bisaha
Lisa K. Clark
Mary Ellen Griffith

13th Judicial Circuit

Louise E. Goldston
H. Suzanne McGraw
Eric Shuck

14th Judicial Circuit

Matthew Dean England

15th Judicial Circuit

David M. Sanders

16th Judicial Circuit

Harley E. Stollings

17th Judicial Circuit

Theresa Cogar Turner

18th Judicial Circuit

Peter Conley
Lori B. Jackson

19th Judicial Circuit

Susan Riffle

20th Judicial Circuit

Patricia Tolle Hill
Randal A. Minor

21st Judicial Circuit

Karen Hill Johnson

22nd Judicial Circuit

Lori Haynes

23rd Judicial Circuit

Deanna Rock
Glen Stotler

24th Judicial Circuit

David A. Camilletti
Sally G. Jackson
Richard Stephens

25th Judicial Circuit

Jeffrey R. Roth

26th Judicial Circuit

Richard Witt

27th Judicial Circuit

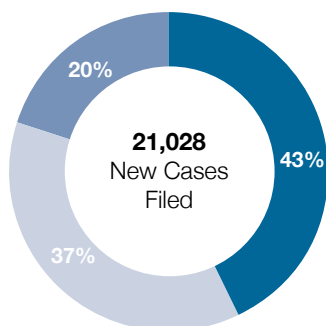
Joyce Helmick Carpenter

Family courts handle cases involving domestic relationships. Family court judges also hold final hearings in domestic violence civil proceedings. Circuit courts hear appeals of family court decisions unless both parties agree to appeal the divorce or other domestic relations decision directly to the Supreme Court of Appeals.

JURISDICTION:

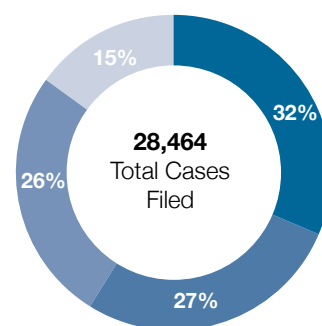
- Divorce and related issues including annulment, separate maintenance, allocation of parental responsibility, and family support;
- Paternity;
- Grandparent visitation;
- Guardianships; and
- Final hearings in domestic violence civil proceedings.

New Cases filed in 2021:



■ **8,979** Domestic Violence Cases
■ **7,841** Divorce Cases
■ **4,208** Other Domestic Relations Matters

Total Cases in 2021:



■ **8,979** Domestic Violence Cases
■ **7,841** Divorce Cases
■ **7,436** Modification and Contempt
■ **4,208** Other Domestic Relations

For more information about family courts, see <http://www.courtswv.gov/lower-courts/family-courts.html>. A county-by-county list of family court judges in West Virginia, along with their office phone and fax numbers, is available at <http://www.courtswv.gov/public-resources/court-information-by-county.html>.

2021

FAMILY COURT SNAPSHOT

55 Counties | **27** Circuits

47

Judges

**Elected to eight-year
terms in non-partisan
races**

**Must be attorneys who
have practiced law in
West Virginia for at least
five years**

21,028

New Cases Filed in 2021

7,436

Modification and
Contempt Proceedings
*not counted as new cases filed

651

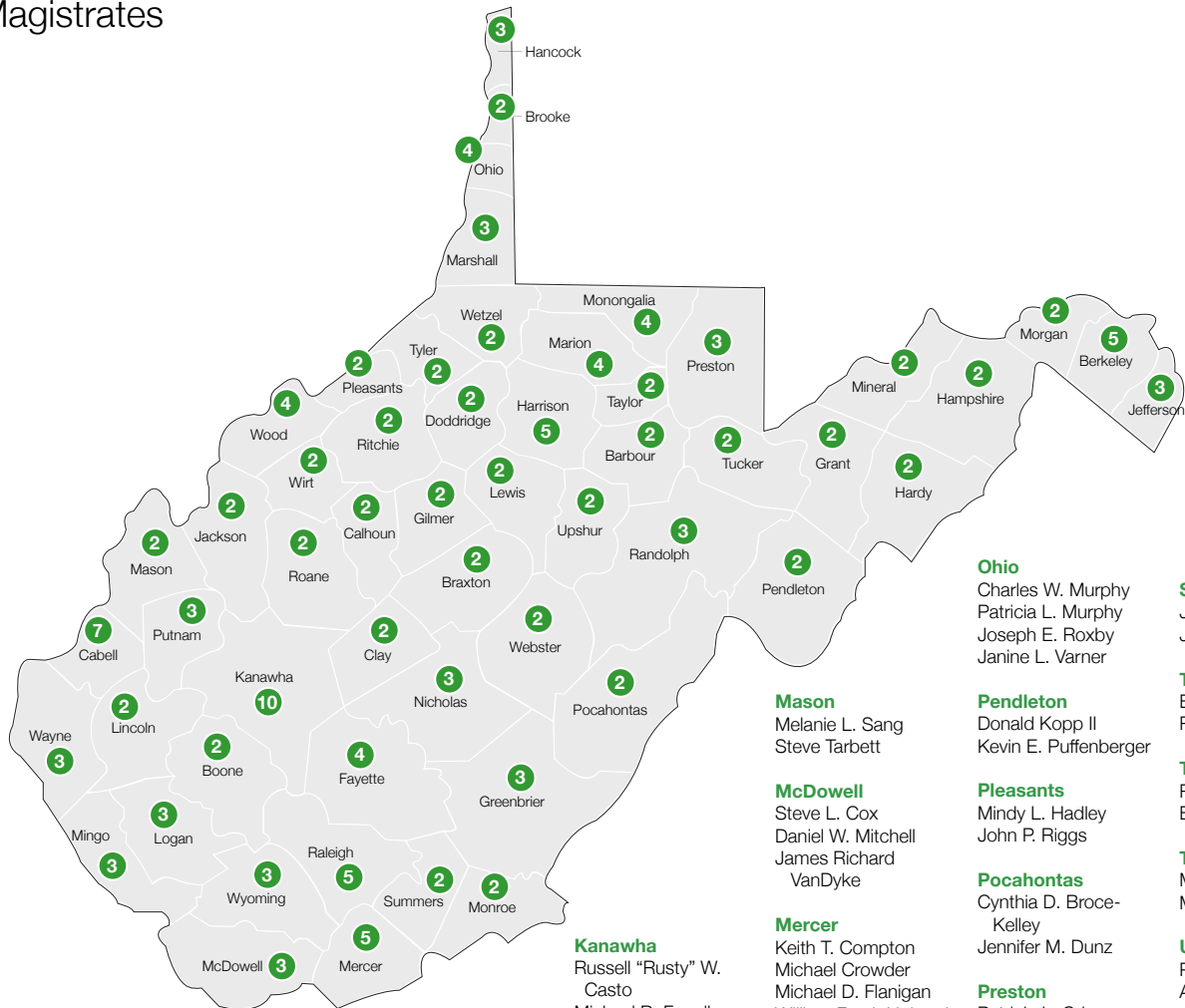
Marriages Conducted

2021 Family Court Case Filings

County	Total	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Other Domestic Relations	Total	Contempt	Modification
Barbour	164	61	80	23	36	15	21
Berkeley	1,238	530	361	347	524	249	275
Boone	278	92	116	70	123	29	94
Braxton	151	72	56	23	76	49	27
Brooke	233	81	91	61	32	15	17
Cabell	1,073	379	427	267	626	357	269
Calhoun	98	34	50	14	32	14	18
Clay	125	51	58	16	75	42	33
Doddridge	81	51	25	5	20	11	9
Fayette	455	205	132	118	299	191	108
Gilmer	60	20	32	8	25	10	15
Grant	141	66	57	18	101	37	64
Greenbrier	416	158	166	92	73	45	28
Hampshire	229	82	61	86	122	62	60
Hancock	324	88	147	89	42	20	22
Hardy	181	68	75	38	103	43	60
Harrison	711	277	338	96	255	91	164
Jackson	316	125	144	47	136	59	77
Jefferson	467	192	128	147	219	100	119
Kanawha	2,392	747	1,221	424	791	417	374
Lewis	186	78	68	40	76	39	37
Lincoln	268	128	85	55	156	51	105
Logan	591	194	338	59	196	59	137
Marion	571	227	255	89	148	65	83
Marshall	218	87	49	82	65	26	39
Mason	207	96	72	39	18	5	13
McDowell	258	94	106	58	47	7	40
Mercer	1,111	346	608	157	257	110	147
Mineral	266	120	97	49	162	90	72
Mingo	434	160	175	99	210	77	133
Monongalia	731	278	324	129	203	93	110
Monroe	159	62	78	19	19	10	9
Morgan	199	86	61	52	111	56	55
Nicholas	353	138	168	47	159	85	74
Ohio	370	132	141	97	60	29	31
Pendleton	86	25	47	14	61	28	33
Pleasants	84	29	43	12	8	6	2
Pocahontas	147	33	87	27	59	41	18
Preston	354	133	153	68	112	54	58
Putnam	614	268	240	106	180	92	88
Raleigh	1,078	379	391	308	209	86	123
Randolph	272	127	110	35	94	43	51
Ritchie	103	59	32	12	34	16	18
Roane	161	76	58	27	67	34	33
Summers	146	51	67	28	48	27	21
Taylor	143	67	52	24	34	11	23
Tucker	60	24	25	11	15	4	11
Tyler	83	30	39	14	14	3	11
Upshur	230	93	90	47	121	61	60
Wayne	384	181	118	85	361	134	227
Webster	79	33	34	12	71	50	21
Wetzel	175	62	70	43	20	8	12
Wirt	73	31	30	12	8	5	3
Wood	1,290	395	670	225	176	59	117
Wyoming	411	140	233	38	147	74	73
Total	21,028	7,841	8,979	4,208	7,436	3,494	3,942

Magistrate Court

Magistrates



Barbour

Daniel Harris
Howard Propst

Berkeley

William "Bill" H. Norris
Darrell Shull
Harry L. Snow
Larry A. Thompson
John R. Unger II

Boone

Neil L. Byrnside
Danny B. Moore, Jr.

Braxton

David R. Singleton
Mary "Beth" Smith

Brooke

Daniell L. Diserio
Shannon N. Price

Cabell

Daniel L. Ferguson
Daniel M. Goheen
Michael J. McCarthy
Ron B. Miller
Christopher M. Sperry
Danne J. Vance
Roger K. Wolfe

Calhoun

Lora N. Davis
Richard G. Postalwait

Clay

Jeffery W. Boggs
William S. Rider

Doddridge

Olivia Adams
Kathryn B. Titus

Fayette

Shawn L. Campbell
Richard L. Pannell
Samuel D. Parsons
Danita G. Young

Gilmer

Berkley Thomas Reed
Carol L. Wolfe

Grant

Willard L. Earle, II
Emory "Bill" W.
Feaster, Jr.

Greenbrier

Kirby Hanson
Kimberly Johnson
Timothy Stover

Hampshire

Ronald J. DiCiolla
John D. Rohrbaugh

Hancock

Ralph A. Fletcher
William S. Hicks
Michael S. White

Hardy

Shawna M. Crites
Craig A. Hose

Harrison

Warren "Gizzy" Davis
Frank A. DeMarco
Mark A. Gorby
Kevin E. Renzelli
Michael L. Weiss

Jackson

Jacqueline "Jackie" R.
Casto
Laura M. Pursley

Jefferson

Carmela Cesare
Vicki Y. D'Angelo
Arthena S. Roper

Kanawha

Russell "Rusty" W.
Casto
Michael B. Ferrell
Brent L. Hall
Ward Harshbarger
Pete C. Lopez
Jack L. Pauley
Gary Q. Sheff
Joseph L. Shelton
Michael L. Sisson
Traci L. Strickland

Lewis

Leslie "L.J." McCue
Brycen S. Williams

Lincoln

Kim L. Clayton
Sophia J. Tully

Logan

James D. Adkins
Joseph L. Mendez
Dwight A. Williamson

Marion

Mark M. Hayes
Melissa Pride Linger
Todd A. Rundle
Brian L. Shuck

Marshall

Zachary B. Allman
Mark A. Kerwood
Thomas P. Wood

Mason

Melanie L. Sang
Steve Tarbett

McDowell

Steve L. Cox
Daniel W. Mitchell
James Richard
VanDyke

Mercer

Keith T. Compton
Michael Crowder
Michael D. Flanigan
William Frank Holroyd
Susan Honaker

Mineral

Patrick A. Amoroso
Charles R. Gulbranson

Mingo

Herbert "Jim" Harvey
David L. Justice
Donald R. Sansom

Monongalia

Ronald L. Bane
Phillip T. Gaujot
Saundra K. Holepit
James E. Nabors

Monroe

Frank C. Basile
Kevin L. Miller

Morgan

Kermit M. Ambrose
Gregory L. Miller

Nicholas

Sarah Meadows Brown
Michael A. Hanks
Doren W. Plummer

Ohio

Charles W. Murphy
Patricia L. Murphy
Joseph E. Roxby
Janine L. Varner

Pendleton

Donald Kopp II
Kevin E. Puffenberger

Pleasants

Mindy L. Cox
Harold E. Jenkins, Jr.
John P. Riggs

Pocahontas

Cynthia D. Broce-
Kelley
Jennifer M. Dunz

Preston

Patricia L. Grimm
Harold E. Jenkins, Jr.
Rudolph "Bo" R. Ward

Putnam

Elizabeth "Kylene"
Brown
Linda J. Hunt
Jean Ann Luikart

Raleigh

Paul A. Blume
Charles R. Humphrey
Richard D. Jones
Tomi S. Peck
Gregory W. Tanner

Randolph

Michael P. Dyer
Tracy M. Harper
Benjamin E. Shepler

Ritchie

David W. Haugh
Leesa D. Snodgrass

Roane

Jason D. Bennett
Ronald A. White

Summers

Jack K. Hellems
Jack W. "Bill" Jeffries

Taylor

Eva "Sue" Guthrie
Ricky R. Reese

Tucker

Riley H. Barb
Brian K. Wilfong

Tyler

Mary L. Dotson
Michael K. Griffin

Upshur

Paul M. Davis
Alan M. Suder

Wayne

David E. Ferguson
Billy Dell Runyon
Randall W. Wiles

Webster

Ryan H. Bruffy
Danny J. Davis

Wetzel

Judith P. Goontz
Donald W. Harris

Wirt

C. David Roberts
Janey I. Wigal

Wood

Joe A. Kuhl
Brenda K. Marshall
Jody Purkey
Robin Waters

Wyoming

Jeffery E. Barlow
D. Craig Cook
Roger L. Snow, Jr.

2021 MAGISTRATE SNAPSHOT

55
Counties

There are
at least two
magistrates in
every county

158

Magistrates

Elected to four-year terms
in non-partisan races

168,787

Total Cases Filed in 2021

73%
Criminal Cases

25%
Civil Cases

1%
Special Proceedings

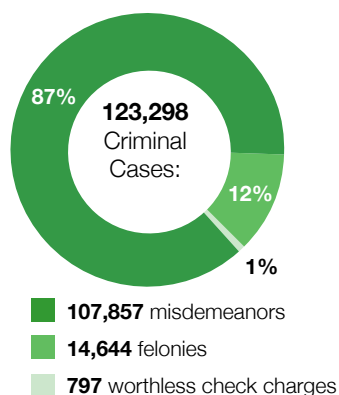
1%
Juvenile Cases

Magistrate court is often called “the people’s court.” There is a magistrate on duty or on call in every county, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

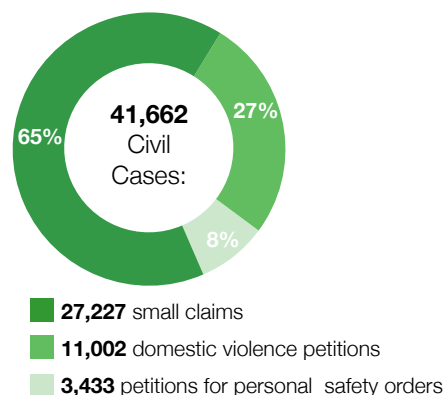
JURISDICTION:

- Misdemeanor criminal cases
- Felony preliminary hearings
- Civil cases in which the financial amount in dispute is less than \$10,000
- Issue and record affidavits, criminal complaints, arrest and search warrants
- Set bail in criminal matters
- Assess court costs, fines, and restitution
- Issue emergency protective orders in cases involving domestic violence and personal safety orders
- Enter domestic violence petitions into the Domestic Violence Database and Registry

2021 Criminal Cases:



2021 Civil Cases:



If there are no mental hygiene commissioners in a county, the chief circuit judge can designate a magistrate to handle all or part of probable cause involuntary hospitalization cases. Magistrates cannot, however, handle final commitment or guardianship cases. In some counties, both mental hygiene commissioners and magistrates are appointed by the chief circuit judge to conduct mental hygiene matters. Magistrates can enter mental hygiene orders into West Virginia’s Centralized State Mental Health Registry and can issue applications and temporary placement orders after hours and on weekends, when needed.

A county-by-county list of magistrates in West Virginia, along with their office phone and fax numbers, is available at <http://www.courtswv.gov/public-resources/court-information-by-county.html>. The website also has blank magistrate court forms that can be downloaded and printed for the public’s use, rules governing media coverage of magistrate court proceedings, and the *West Virginia Benchbook for Domestic Violence Proceedings*, among other information.

2021 Magistrate Court Civil Case Filings

County	Total	Small Claims	Personal Safety Petitions	Domestic Violence	
				EPO	TEPO
Barbour	333	225	26	82	0
Berkeley	4,045	3,089	245	711	0
Boone	339	130	87	122	0
Braxton	260	200	0	60	0
Brooke	323	166	49	107	1
Cabell	2,608	1,903	161	543	1
Calhoun	108	54	1	53	0
Clay	115	58	0	57	0
Doddridge	134	86	27	20	1
Fayette	451	316	0	133	2
Gilmer	132	96	3	33	0
Grant	169	100	13	55	1
Greenbrier	586	307	67	210	2
Hampshire	773	696	2	75	0
Hancock	478	271	44	158	5
Hardy	352	270	3	77	2
Harrison	1,915	1,536	8	371	0
Jackson	600	343	58	199	0
Jefferson	1,249	985	62	200	2
Kanawha	4,455	2,279	538	1,636	2
Lewis	550	440	25	85	0
Lincoln	265	130	35	100	0
Logan	761	258	164	338	1
Marion	1,419	977	113	329	0
Marshall	412	348	14	50	0
Mason	368	170	70	124	4
McDowell	196	84	0	112	0
Mercer	2,155	1140	352	662	1
Mineral	633	454	58	121	0
Mingo	363	125	63	175	0
Monongalia	2,249	1,621	153	475	0
Monroe	276	137	46	93	0
Morgan	416	294	46	76	0
Nicholas	433	230	26	175	2
Ohio	885	641	87	157	0
Pendleton	90	31	11	48	0
Pleasants	145	100	2	42	1
Pocahontas	255	113	47	95	0
Preston	642	454	26	161	1
Putnam	1,067	724	47	295	1
Raleigh	1,400	831	37	531	1
Randolph	679	443	61	175	0
Ritchie	162	124	4	33	1
Roane	252	170	8	74	0
Summers	138	72	0	66	0
Taylor	255	201	1	53	0
Tucker	81	59	0	22	0
Tyler	144	72	27	45	0
Upshur	621	480	40	100	1
Wayne	561	351	45	165	0
Webster	155	111	7	37	0
Wetzel	259	156	27	76	0
Wirt	100	64	5	31	0
Wood	3,412	2,406	310	693	3
Wyoming	438	106	82	247	3
Total	41,662	27,227	3,433	10,963	39

2021 Magistrate Court Criminal Case Filings

County	Total	Worthless Check	Felony		Misdemeanor		
			Motor Vehicle	Other	Motor Vehicle	DNR	Other
Barbour	855	42	5	96	359	40	313
Berkeley	8,543	12	65	940	4,833	35	2,658
Boone	2,702	1	22	206	1,771	42	660
Braxton	868	6	10	94	464	16	278
Brooke	1,488	4	14	114	975	35	346
Cabell	6,972	31	71	891	3,729	29	2,221
Calhoun	593	7	6	42	336	28	174
Clay	1,086	12	10	66	774	37	187
Doddridge	499	2	4	60	308	3	122
Fayette	2,294	7	19	328	1,247	41	652
Gilmer	376	1	3	44	171	14	143
Grant	1,434	14	7	75	959	29	350
Greenbrier	1,675	42	5	232	744	59	593
Hampshire	1,268	31	13	133	573	50	468
Hancock	1,551	10	37	159	865	31	449
Hardy	2,144	23	5	116	1,438	42	520
Harrison	3,976	39	48	549	1,818	34	1,488
Jackson	1,749	31	14	270	858	68	508
Jefferson	2,551	3	26	266	1,309	63	884
Kanawha	13,326	32	176	1,572	7,997	95	3,454
Lewis	1,278	15	3	84	708	69	399
Lincoln	1,589	2	10	103	1,216	23	235
Logan	3,799	8	50	526	1,667	133	1,415
Marion	2,744	23	27	527	1,274	51	842
Marshall	1,752	3	14	229	696	16	794
Mason	1,462	9	12	142	755	64	480
McDowell	1,694	1	20	214	818	22	619
Mercer	3,493	21	35	421	1,957	45	1,014
Mineral	1,978	4	8	119	1,097	14	736
Mingo	1,569	5	20	379	535	52	578
Monongalia	4,188	48	30	543	1,562	58	1,947
Monroe	493	2	2	38	227	32	192
Morgan	2,049	12	1	63	1,108	6	859
Nicholas	2,166	23	25	223	1,192	90	613
Ohio	3,140	14	15	256	1,717	31	1,107
Pendleton	402	1	4	50	241	31	75
Pleasants	501	7	4	46	324	6	114
Pocahontas	960	36	11	60	533	68	252
Preston	2,261	10	31	154	1,322	39	705
Putnam	2,993	12	29	170	2,103	36	643
Raleigh	8,319	20	53	874	5,193	72	2,107
Randolph	1,724	43	19	189	804	66	603
Ritchie	918	6	5	88	620	26	173
Roane	1,308	2	16	109	808	36	337
Summers	690	1	3	68	353	26	239
Taylor	606	3	6	66	281	10	240
Tucker	333	25	2	12	200	10	84
Tyler	609	13	11	25	407	7	146
Upshur	1,735	30	31	167	989	18	500
Wayne	2,448	2	21	268	1,688	34	435
Webster	545	19	6	78	187	33	222
Wetzel	899	9	12	171	422	15	270
Wirt	314	3	0	18	177	17	99
Wood	4,485	12	31	616	1,464	83	2,279
Wyoming	1,904	3	24	144	1,002	83	648
Total	123,298	797	1,151	13,493	67,175	2,213	38,469

2021 Magistrate Court Case Filings

2021 Juvenile Case Filings					2021 Special Proceedings			
County	Total	Motor Vehicle	DNR	Other	Total	Mental Health	Abuse and Neglect	Juvenile
Barbour	13	7	0	6	13	12	0	1
Berkeley	89	80	0	9	144	2	0	142
Boone	19	10	6	3	19	0	0	19
Braxton	4	1	2	1	27	6	10	11
Brooke	58	22	0	36	14	0	0	14
Cabell	16	15	0	1	47	27	8	12
Calhoun	10	9	0	1	23	0	0	23
Clay	9	9	0	0	11	4	7	0
Doddridge	10	2	0	8	32	1	24	7
Fayette	19	14	0	5	8	3	0	5
Gilmer	9	4	0	5	24	0	8	16
Grant	31	22	0	9	29	18	8	3
Greenbrier	22	7	3	12	56	5	31	20
Hampshire	33	8	2	23	22	5	10	7
Hancock	31	7	0	24	44	0	0	44
Hardy	23	22	1	0	47	16	15	16
Harrison	61	23	0	38	97	0	64	33
Jackson	11	6	4	1	65	11	40	14
Jefferson	26	17	5	4	10	1	0	9
Kanawha	96	54	3	39	354	0	0	354
Lewis	24	10	0	14	14	4	0	10
Lincoln	13	13	0	0	3	3	0	0
Logan	63	30	2	31	0	0	0	0
Marion	30	22	3	5	63	0	43	20
Marshall	10	7	0	3	0	0	0	0
Mason	42	9	1	32	37	19	12	6
McDowell	10	3	0	7	86	69	9	8
Mercer	12	11	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mineral	30	22	0	8	27	16	9	2
Mingo	12	6	2	4	9	4	4	1
Monongalia	72	22	1	49	4	4	0	0
Monroe	26	2	1	23	8	1	0	7
Morgan	40	24	0	16	22	0	0	22
Nicholas	14	10	3	1	53	21	28	4
Ohio	26	26	0	0	190	0	172	18
Pendleton	10	8	2	0	8	1	2	5
Pleasants	7	3	0	4	42	4	22	16
Pocahontas	13	9	1	3	16	9	4	3
Preston	13	11	2	0	58	24	33	1
Putnam	21	20	1	0	0	0	0	0
Raleigh	137	50	1	86	238	54	0	184
Randolph	25	21	3	1	28	28	0	0
Ritchie	14	8	0	6	41	3	15	23
Roane	11	11	0	0	21	3	0	18
Summers	23	4	2	17	38	0	37	1
Taylor	6	6	0	0	31	25	0	6
Tucker	1	1	0	0	6	1	1	4
Tyler	4	4	0	0	6	0	5	1
Upshur	28	16	0	12	6	4	2	0
Wayne	30	25	1	4	35	12	6	17
Webster	4	3	1	0	24	11	9	4
Wetzel	2	2	0	0	8	0	7	1
Wirt	11	0	1	10	0	0	0	0
Wood	54	12	3	39	108	0	107	1
Wyoming	28	26	1	1	68	6	27	35
Total	1,456	796	58	602	2,371	425	779	1,167

Specialty Courts and Panels

Many circuit judges and family court judges volunteer to take on additional duties for which they receive no additional pay. Circuit judges serve on the Business Court Division, the Mass Litigation Panel, and the Juvenile Justice Commission. Circuit judges and family court judges serve on the Court Improvement Program Board and oversee the state's expanding network of treatment courts. These specialty courts and panels perform important functions that enhance judicial services in West Virginia.



1) Family portrait of Roane County Family Treatment Court graduates Ryan Haynes and Elizabeth Gibson with their son. **2)** Cindy Largent-Hill and Kandi Greter of the Court Improvement Program (CIP) meet with Shanna Gray and Kim Runyon Wilds of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) at City Center East in Charleston. **3)** Circuit Judges Alan Moats and Derek Swope at a Mass Litigation Panel hearing. **4)** Boone County combined graduation for all of its treatment courts, March 24, 2021 (Family Treatment Court graduates Walter Stone and Sarah Muller with program coordinator Kelly Gadd). **5)** Judge Jason Wharton presents a certificate to William Leon Comuzie to celebrate his successful completion of the Mid-Ohio Valley Drug Court Program. **6)** Juvenile Justice Commission's 10th anniversary celebration in December 2021.



Business Court

The West Virginia Business Court Division is a specialized court docket within the circuit courts that efficiently manages and resolves litigation involving commercial issues and disputes between businesses. It was established in accordance with West Virginia Trial Court Rule 29 and W. Va. Code § 51-2-15.

Business court judges' mediation training and experience, along with the alternative dispute resolution aspect of Trial Court Rule 29, allow the judges to offer alternative dispute resolution options throughout the litigation process, resolving a considerable number of cases in a timely manner, without having to go to trial.

Any party or judge may request referral of a case to the Business Court Division. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia serves as the gatekeeper and may act directly on a motion to refer a case to the division or may direct the division to conduct a hearing for a recommendation to the chief justice. Business litigation that is transferred to the division by the chief justice is assigned a presiding and resolution judge by the chair of the division. The case remains in the county of origin, but the presiding judge may conduct hearings and trials in any circuit courtroom within the assignment region.

Judges

The division consists of six active circuit court judges and one senior status judge appointed by the chief justice. Judges serve seven-year terms and can serve successive terms. The chief justice designates one of the business court judges to serve as chair for a three-year term.

The current chair is Circuit Judge Michael D. Lorensen, Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties), whose term expires December 31, 2026. The other members are as follows:

Senior Status Judge Christopher C. Wilkes, whose term expires December 31, 2024;
Circuit Judge James H. Young, Jr., Twenty-Fourth Judicial Circuit (Wayne County), whose term expires December 31, 2021;
Circuit Judge Paul T. Farrell, Sixth Judicial Circuit (Cabell County), whose term expires December 31, 2023;
Circuit Judge H. Charles Carl, III, Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit (Hardy, Hampshire, and Pendleton Counties), whose term expires December 31, 2022;
Circuit Judge Jennifer P. Dent, Eleventh Judicial Circuit (Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties), whose term expires December 31, 2025; and
Circuit Judge Shawn D. Nines, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit (Barbour and Taylor Counties), whose term expires December 31, 2027).

Division staff includes Executive Director Carol A. Miller; her assistant, Lorri J. Stotler; and Law Clerk Tessa Bowers.

Case Statistics

In 2021, there were 18 motions to refer cases to the Business Court Division filed in 11 counties, and the chief justice decided 17 of the 18 motions. Of those, 11 were granted and seven were denied. The motions to refer were decided in an average of 53 days. Nine motions to refer were filed by defendants, four by plaintiffs, one by a respondent, two jointly by defendants and plaintiffs, and two by judges. There were two trials: one bench and one jury.

Since the inception of the Business Court Division in October 2012, 219 motions to refer cases to the division have been filed in 40 counties. Of those, 127 cases were transferred to the division in 35 counties. Business Court Division judges have resolved 101 of the 127 cases.

In 2021, the business court judges disposed of 10 cases. The average age of cases disposed in 2021 was 675 days. The business court judges scheduled approximately 67 hearings, entertained 204 motions, and entered 325 orders in 2021 in 35 cases.

As of the end of 2021, there were 20 active pending cases and six other pending cases that were not active due to a stay or being in receivership. The average case age of the active cases as of the end of 2021 was 397 days.

For more information about the Business Court Division and to view the full 2021 Business Court Division Annual Report, see <http://www.courtswv.gov/lower-courts/business-court-division/index.html>.

Treatment Courts

The Division of Probation Services develops and oversees treatment courts in West Virginia on behalf of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

Juvenile Drug Courts

Juvenile drug courts are cooperative efforts of the juvenile justice, social service, and education systems. These early/earlier intervention programs divert non-violent juvenile offenders exhibiting substance abuse behavior from the traditional juvenile court process to an intensive, individualized, evidence-based treatment process. Juvenile drug courts work to reduce substance abuse risk and future court involvement for the teens. In 2021, West Virginia had 16 juvenile drug courts and served 261 participants. Also, during the year, 52 participants (40.6 percent) graduated. Participants gave birth to two drug-free babies. The average cost for a juvenile to participate is \$4,269 a year, much less than residential placement, which exceeds \$100,000 a year per person. Juvenile drug court participants reported their drugs of choice were marijuana, alcohol, methamphetamine, synthetic cannabinoid, and cocaine. There were no instances of relapse reported in 2021.

Adult Drug Courts

West Virginia has 29 adult drug courts that serve residents of all counties. In 2021, the average annual cost per participant was \$5,331, significantly less than housing an inmate in a regional jail or correctional facility. The cost includes intensive supervision, treatment, case management, and drug testing. In 2021, adult drug courts served approximately 846 participants. They received 576 referrals and admitted 348 individuals. During the year, 186 participants graduated (54.9 percent), 161 participants began new employment, and two enrolled in some type of higher education. Four babies were born drug-free to mothers participating in drug courts. The top five drugs of choice for participants were opiates, methamphetamine, alcohol, amphetamines, and marijuana. During the year, 14 participants relapsed. West Virginia's overall recidivism rate for graduates of adult drug courts is approximately 16 percent.

16 JUVENILE DRUG COURTS
in West Virginia in 2021

261
participants
served

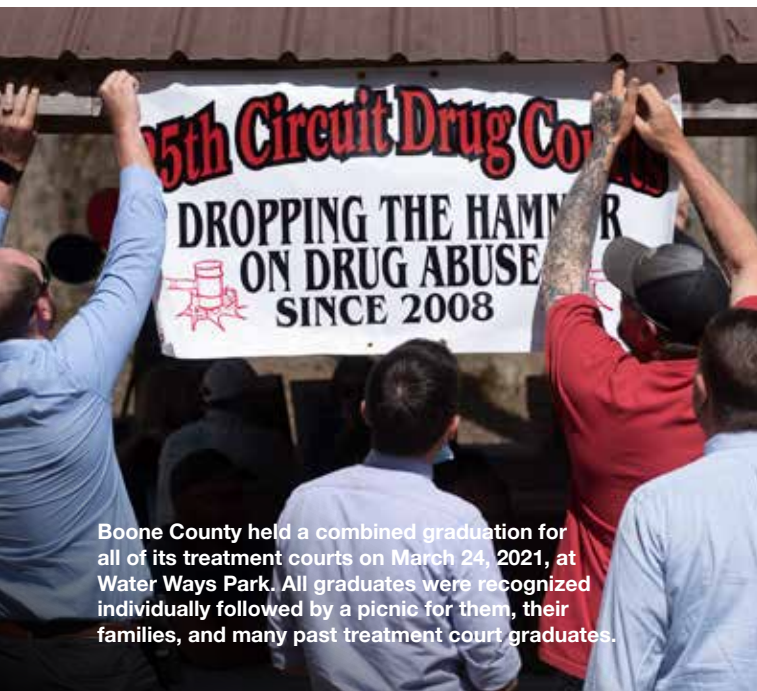
52
participants
graduated

29 ADULT DRUG COURTS
serve residents of all counties

846
participants
served

186
participants
graduated

161
participants
began new
employment



Boone County held a combined graduation for all of its treatment courts on March 24, 2021, at Water Ways Park. All graduates were recognized individually followed by a picnic for them, their families, and many past treatment court graduates.



Chief Justice Evan Jenkins attends the Roane-Calhoun Adult Drug Court graduation for Jeff Hoskins, who successfully completed the program on June 11, 2021.

Family Treatment Courts

Family treatment courts were established in 2019 to serve adults with substance use disorders who are also involved in a child abuse and neglect case. The goal is to return children to a safer home environment and achieve permanency faster and more effectively than traditional judicial methods.

At the end of 2021, there were 10 family treatment courts serving 13 counties. Since they began operating in West Virginia, there have been 206 participants. By the end of 2021, 60 had graduated. Family treatment courts have served 328 children, with 108 being reunified with their families and 78 achieving permanency. The average time to reunification for family treatment court participants with their children was 318 days and 454 days to permanency. Nationally, the average time to permanency is approximately 678 days. During 2021, five babies were born to family treatment court participant mothers, and these babies were able to go home instead of automatic placement. The top five drugs of choice for participants were, in order, methamphetamine, cannabis, amphetamine, fentanyl, and opioids.

FAMILY TREATMENT COURTS 2021 snapshot

10 family treatment courts
serving **13** West Virginia counties

113 participants served | **43** participants graduated

154 children served with **43** reunified
with thier families



Circuit Judge Jason Wharton announced the formation of the Wood County Family Treatment Court in July 2021.



Circuit Judge Joshua Butcher presided over the Logan County Family Treatment Court's first graduation on December 10, 2021.



Family portrait of Boone County Family Treatment Court graduate Cassie Asbury, photographed with her boyfriend and daughter.

Court Improvement Program Oversight Board (CIP)

The mission of the CIP is to advance practices, policies, and laws that improve the safety, timely permanency, and well-being of children and due process for families in child abuse/neglect and juvenile cases.

The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia established the multidisciplinary West Virginia Court Improvement Program Oversight Board (CIP) in 1995 as the body responsible for the oversight of federal grants to the state court system. The grants are intended to improve foster care laws and judicial processes and to develop and implement a plan for systemic improvement. The grants are from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources' Administration for Children and Families.

In 2021, the CIP completed the following tasks:

- Sponsored 27 training sessions attended by 2,080 professionals on topics related to child welfare.
- Added more than 4,700 cases to the Juvenile Abuse and Neglect Information Services (JANIS) database. Data from JANIS is used to identify trends in how abuse and neglect cases are handled in West Virginia.
- Conducted surveys of those who attended multidisciplinary team meetings or MDT. By September 30, 2021, 1,144 surveys were completed. The surveys are part of a project to improve the quality of court hearings by improving the quality of MDTs. If all parties are present at an MDT, feel heard, and come to consensus on the case plan, that improves discussion at the

subsequent hearing. CIP continues to analyze the results of the surveys.

- Worked on the Missing From Care Project, which was established in 2019 to gather information from juveniles who have run away about why they did so. The goal is to determine which interventions would prevent youths from running. Project workers plan to interview 350 children. As of fall 2021, 217 interviews were completed. Preliminary data indicated that 66 percent of runs were spontaneous and not planned, 49 percent of youths would have returned but were afraid of the consequences, and 60 percent said their departures could have been prevented.
- Continued the New View program that was relaunched in April 2020. Judges or their designees can refer children to the program, which provides an in-depth review of cases that have been open a longer-than-average time. In each case, a CIP field coordinator reviews court and state child welfare agency records, interviews the child and anyone involved in the child's case, and attends pertinent hearings and MDT. They then make recommendations to the child's MDT.

Court Improvement Program Board of Directors

Judges

Circuit Judge C. Carter Williams, Chair, Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit (Hardy, Hampshire, and Pendleton Counties)
Circuit Judge Jack Alsop, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit (Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, and Webster Counties)
Circuit Judge Anita Ashley, Fifth Judicial Circuit (Calhoun, Jackson, Mason, and Roane Counties)
Circuit Judge James Courier, Jr., Twenty-First Judicial Circuit (Grant, Mineral, and Tucker Counties)
Circuit Judge Lora Dyer, Fifth Judicial Circuit (Calhoun, Jackson, Mason, and Roane Counties)
Circuit Judge Phillip Stowers, Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit (Putnam County) ex-officio member because he is chair of the Juvenile Justice Commission
Family Court Judge Peter Conley, Eighteenth Family Court Circuit (Doddridge and Harrison Counties)
Family Court Judge Sabrina Deskins, Eighth Family Court Circuit (Mingo County)
Senior Status Circuit Judge Robert B. Stone (Monongalia County)



The CIP program funded three law student externs who completed 100 hours of field work and spent two hours a week in class. The goal of the externship program is to train and encourage law students to become guardians ad litem. The 2021 externs were Rachael Mullins, Christian LaParne, and Carrie Miller.

Photo courtesy of WVU College of Law.

Executive Agency Representatives

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

Bill Crouch, Cabinet Secretary
 Jeremiah Samples, Deputy Secretary
 Jeff Pack, Commissioner, Bureau for Social Services (BSS)
 Cammie Chapman, Associate General Counsel
 Michelle Dean, Program Manager, Permanency Division Director
 Russell Fridley, Community Services Manager (Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas, and Summers Counties)
 Heather Grogg, Regional Director, BSS
 Carla Harper, Director, Children and Adult Services, BSS
 Amy Hymes, Deputy Commissioner, BSS
 Tina A. Mitchell, Deputy Commissioner, BSS
 Tanny O'Connell, Deputy Commissioner, BSS
 Susan Richards, Director of Training, BSS
 Nikki Tennis, Director, Office of Children, Youth, and Families
 Melanie Urquhart, Director of Social Services/Office of Field Support, BSS
 Susan Wilmerink, Attorney, Bureau for Child Support Enforcement
 Chaelyn Casteel, Assistant Attorney General
 Joan Ohl, Senior Director, Strategic Consulting, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Other State Agencies

Denny Dodson, Chief of Operations, Bureau of Juvenile Services
 Debi Gillespie, Director of Programs and Treatment, Bureau of Juvenile Services
 Andrea L. Darr, Director, West Virginia Center for Children's Justice, West Virginia State Police
 Lisa Carmelia, Administrative Coordinator, West Virginia Center for Children's Justice, West Virginia State Police
 Jacob C. Green, Superintendent, West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition
 Rebecca Derenge, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Education
 Mollie Wood, Assistant Director, Adult Programs, Office of Diversion & Transition Program, West Virginia Department of Education
 Pamela M. Woodman-Kaehler, Foster Care Ombudsman, Office of Inspector General
 Cheryl K. Saville, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Berkeley County

Advocates And Providers

Molly Arbogast, Executive Director, West Virginia Chapter, National Association of Social Workers
 Mark Drennan, Chief Executive Officer, West Virginia Behavioral Healthcare Providers Association
 Kate Flack, Chief Executive Officer, West Virginia Child Advocacy Network
 Jessica Gibson, Treatment Coordinator, Pressley Ridge
 Shanna Gray, State Director, West Virginia Court Appointed Special Advocates

Katrina Harmon, Executive Director, West Virginia Child Care Association
 Kim Runyon-Wilds, Director, Western Regional Court Appointed Special Advocates
 Caitlin Smith, Director of Strategic Initiatives, West Virginia Child Advocacy Network
 Kathy Szafran, Executive Director, Mountain Health Promise, AETNA
 Steve Tuck, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Home Society of West Virginia
 Catherine Wallace, Executive Director, ChildLaw Services, Inc.
 Joyce Yedlosky, Team Coordinator, West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Attorneys

Teresa Lyons, CIP Counsel
 Kristen Antolini
 Robert T. Noone
 Jeffrey B. Reed
 Robert Wilkinson

Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia Staff

Joseph Armstrong, Administrative Director
 Cindy Largent-Hill, Director, Division of Children and Juvenile Services
 Jessica Brown, CIP Field Coordinator, Division of Children and Juvenile Services
 Stephanie Bond, Director, Division of Probation Services
 Madison Cochran, CIP data entry, Division of Children and Juvenile Services
 Gabe Conley, CIP Field Coordinator, Division of Children and Juvenile Services
 Kandi Greter, CIP Community Outreach and Education Manager, Division of Children and Juvenile Services
 Brenda Hoylman, Children's Welfare/Juvenile Justice Manager, Division of Children and Juvenile Services
 Andria Jones, CIP Project Manager, Division of Children and Juvenile Services
 Evan Lynch, Deputy Administrative Director
 Stacie Mullins, CIP Resource Coordinator, Division of Children and Juvenile Services
 Amy Sadler, CIP Field Coordinator, Division of Children and Juvenile Services
 Laura Sarver, Grants Accountant
 Lorri Stotler, Administrative Specialist, Division of Children and Juvenile Services
 Lisa Tackett, Director of Court Services
 Sara Thompson, Deputy Director, Division of Court Services

Federal Partners

Eva Klain, Director, Child and Adolescent Health, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law
 Evan Steel, Program Specialist, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

For more information about the CIP, see

<http://www.courtswv.gov/public-resources/CAN/court-improvement-program.html>.

Juvenile Justice Commission

In 2011, the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia established the Adjudicated Juvenile Rehabilitation Review Commission, now called the Juvenile Justice Commission, to monitor the state juvenile justice system and ensure it provides safe, nurturing living conditions, as well as rehabilitative services. The commission is a multidisciplinary panel that reviews facilities and programs operated or contracted by the West Virginia Bureau of Juvenile Services and the Department of Health and Human Resources. In addition, the commission looks at strengths, gaps, and needs within West Virginia's juvenile justice processes.

The commission is comprised of representatives of the West Virginia Department of Education, the National Association of Social Workers, churches and community organizations, and has seven members who are circuit judges.

Circuit Judge Phillip Stowers, Chair, Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit (Putnam County)

Molly Arbogast, Executive Director, West Virginia Chapter, National Association of Social Workers

Joseph Armstrong, Administrative Director, Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

Stephanie Bond, Director, Division of Probation Services

Circuit Judge Jennifer P. Dent, Eleventh Judicial Circuit (Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties)

Rebecca Derenge, Attendance and McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Education

Circuit Judge Thomas H. Ewing, Twelfth Judicial Circuit (Fayette County)

W. Jesse Forbes, Forbes Law Offices, PLLC

Jacob Green, Superintendent, West Virginia Schools of Diversion and Transition

Olubunmi Kusimo-Frazier, Director, Division of Magistrate Court Services

Cindy Largent-Hill, Director, Division of Children & Juvenile Services

Circuit Judge Eric O'Briant, Seventh Judicial Circuit (Logan County)

Circuit Judge R. Steven Redding, Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties)

Debra Sullivan, Community Member

Circuit Judge Joanna Tabit, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County)

Lisa Tackett, Director, Division of Court Services

The Rev. Rue Thompson, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

The Rev. Matthew Watts, MJ Watts Ministries, Charleston

Circuit Judge C. Carter Williams, Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit (Hampshire, Hardy, and Pendleton Counties), ex-officio as Chair of Court Improvement Program Board

Juvenile Justice Commission Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

The commission celebrated its 10th anniversary at its December 14, 2021, quarterly meeting.

Former Supreme Court Justice Margaret Workman established the commission after 19-year-old Benjamin Hill died at the Industrial Home for Youth in Salem, West Virginia. Justice Workman pledged to find out how and why he died. Unfortunately, the commission's extensive investigation was inconclusive. "But we made a commitment that we would not stop," said Juvenile Justice Commission Director Cindy Largent-Hill, who has led commission staff since its creation.

Chief Justice Evan Jenkins and Justices Tim Armstead, John Hutchison, and William R. Wooton; former commission chair Omar Aboulhosn, now a federal magistrate judge in the Southern District of West Virginia; and Jeffrey M. Pack, Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Resources' Bureau for Social Services, were among those who attended the celebration.



For more information about the commission, see

<http://www.courtsww.gov/court-administration/juvenile-justice-commission/History.html>.



▲ “I’m so grateful for the changes that have been made,” Nancy Szilvasi, who raised Benjamin Hill, said at the meeting. Turning to Justice Workman, she said, “Thank you for reading my letter and taking action. I can’t thank you enough. It meant the world to me that someone cared.”



Mass Litigation

The Mass Litigation panel is charged with developing and implementing case management and trial methodologies to fairly and expeditiously resolve mass litigation referred to the panel by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals. West Virginia Trial Court Rule 26.05(a).

The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia established the Mass Litigation Panel in 1996, making the panel the first of its type in the United States.

“Mass Litigation” is defined in West Virginia Trial Court Rule 26.04(a). The panel consists of seven active or senior status circuit judges who are appointed by the chief justice with the approval of the Supreme Court of Appeals. They serve staggered terms of three years and may serve successive terms. The chief justice designates one panel member to serve as its chair to preside over the activities of the panel and to report to the Supreme Court of Appeals. West Virginia Trial Court Rule 26.02.



Chair of the Mass Litigation Panel, Judge Alan D. Moats

The Chair of the Mass Litigation Panel is Judge Alan D. Moats, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit (Barbour and Taylor Counties).

The other members of the panel are as follows:

Judge Jay M. Hoke - Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit (Boone and Lincoln Counties)
Judge Derek C. Swope - Ninth Judicial Circuit (Mercer County)
Judge Jack Alsop - Fourteenth Judicial Circuit (Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, and Webster Counties)
Judge Joanna I. Tabit - Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County)
Judge Christopher J. McCarthy - Fifteenth Judicial Circuit (Harrison County)
Judge Gregory L. Howard - Sixth Judicial Circuit (Cabell County)

The following staff serve the panel:

Kimberley R. Fields - Counsel to the Mass Litigation Panel
Debra K. Brogan - Mass Litigation Paralegal

For the full 2021 Annual Report of the Mass Litigation Panel, see <http://www.courtswv.gov/lower-courts/mlp/2021MassLitigationAnnualReport.pdf>.



Court Notes

Awards

Bar Foundation Fellows

A Supreme Court Justice, two circuit judges, and the Judicial Investigation Commission (JIC) Counsel were named West Virginia Bar Foundation Fellows. The foundation honored its 2020 Fellows Class and 2021 Fellows Class at a dinner on June 24 in Charleston. The 2020 Fellows Dinner was cancelled because of COVID-19.

Justice **Tim Armstead** and Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties) Judge **Michael D. Lorensen** are members of the 2021 Bar Foundation Fellows Class. They received their awards from Past Bar Foundation President Chip Shaffer of Morgantown.

Tenth Judicial Circuit (Raleigh County) Judge **H.L. Kirkpatrick, III**, and JIC Counsel **Teresa Tarr** are members of the 2020 Bar Foundation Fellows Class. They received their awards from Bar Foundation Past President Ellen Cappellanti of Charleston.

The Bar Foundation names fellows “whose professional, public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and honorable service to the legal profession with the individuals selected reflecting the diverse nature of the legal profession in West Virginia,” according to its website. About 400 people have been named fellows of the legal profession.



RANDOLPH COUNTY PROBATION OFFICER NAMED PROBATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Heidi A. Hawkins, Chief Probation Officer of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit (Randolph County), was named West Virginia Probation Officer of the Year for 2021 in a surprise ceremony on December 2 in the Circuit Courtroom in the Randolph County Courthouse in Elkins.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Chief Hawkins led efforts to supply probation offices around West Virginia with personal protective supplies. In addition to her full caseload, she participates weekly in the county's juvenile drug court, adult drug court, and family treatment court meetings and supports the county's school-based probation officer. She also helped write grants that established the North Central Community Corrections Program, serves on multiple community advisory boards, and runs monthly MDIT meetings for the county.

Carol Ashburn Named Court Reporter of the Year

Marion County Court Reporter **Carol A. Ashburn** was named the 2021 Court Reporter of the Year at the Court Reporter Conference in October.



Ms. Ashburn grew up in the Kingmont area of Fairmont and graduated from East Fairmont High School. She attended Fairmont State College and graduated from West Virginia Career College. She has been a Voice Writer court reporter in West Virginia since 1992. She worked as a freelancer until 2006, when she began working full-time for Sixteenth Judicial Circuit (Marion County) Judge David R. Janes.

Supreme Court, AO Receive Visionary Voice Award



The state sexual assault coalition awarded the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia and its Administrative Office with the 2021 Visionary Voice Award for its collective efforts to end sexual violence. Chief Justice **Evan Jenkins** and Court Services Director **Lisa Tackett** accepted the award on behalf of the Supreme Court during a virtual ceremony on March 25.

The award is from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center and is made annually in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center gives an award each year to one person or entity in each state who has demonstrated outstanding work to end sexual violence. The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information & Services ("FRIS") Board chooses the West Virginia winner each year.

FRIS commended the Supreme Court for continuing court operations and beginning new projects during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Administrative Office also updated the West Virginia Sexual Violence Benchbook in 2021.

Former Justice Workman Receives Caplan Award

During a ceremony on December 1, former Supreme Court Justice **Margaret Workman** received the Caplan Award in recognition of her lifetime of service to West Virginia courts and the practice of law. The award is presented annually by the West Virginia Association for Justice.

The Caplan Award is named in honor of late West Virginia Supreme Court Justice Fred Caplan, who served from 1962 to 1980.



Transitions

Berkeley County

Twenty-Fourth Family Court Circuit (Berkeley and Jefferson Counties) Judge **David Greenberg** retired July 31. He had been a family court judge since 2009. Governor Jim Justice appointed Berkeley County Magistrate **Richard D. Stephens** to the family court bench, and he was sworn

in on August 23.

Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit

(Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties) Chief Judge Michael D. Lorensen appointed **John R. Unger II** to fill the vacant magistrate court seat, and he was sworn in as a magistrate on September 17.



Magistrate **Charles Cole** resigned April 28, and Judge Lorensen appointed **Darrell Shull** to replace him. Magistrate Shull was

sworn in on May 19. He previously served as a magistrate in Berkeley County from 2018 to 2020.



Boone County

Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit (Boone and Lincoln Counties) Judge **William S. Thompson** resigned August 18 when he was nominated to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia. He was sworn in as U.S. Attorney on October 13. Governor Justice appointed **Stacy Lynn Nowicki-Eldridge** to replace him, and she began work on November 29.



Cabell County

Cabell County Circuit Clerk **Jeffrey Hood** retired June 20. Sixth Judicial Circuit (Cabell County) Chief Judge Gregory Howard appointed Magistrate **Michael “Mike” J. Woelfel** to replace him. To accept the appointment, Magistrate Woelfel resigned from the bench on July 12.



Judge Howard appointed **Ron “Bocky” Miller** to the vacant magistrate position, and he was sworn in on September 3.

Deputy Magistrate Court Clerk **Julie Callicoat** became the Cabell County Magistrate Court Clerk on November 1 after **Paula Holley** retired on October 29. Holley had been magistrate clerk since November 1, 2012. She was previously a magistrate assistant in Wood County from December 1993 to August 2004 and then a magistrate assistant in Boone County from November 2005 until she became the Cabell County Magistrate Court Clerk.

Doddridge County

Magistrate **Michael Headley** resigned on November 3. Third Judicial Circuit (Doddridge, Pleasants, and Ritchie Counties) Judge Timothy Sweeney appointed **Kathryn (Beverlin) Titus** to fill the vacant seat, and she was sworn in as a magistrate on December 3. She previously had worked as a magistrate assistant and chief deputy circuit clerk.

Fayette County

Fayette County Magistrate **Sharon McGraw** retired September 30 after working in the courthouse for 33 years. Magistrate McGraw, who was in her sixth term, previously spent 12 years as a Fayette County Magistrate Assistant. Twelfth Judicial Circuit (Fayette County) Chief Judge Thomas H. Ewing appointed **Shawn L. Campbell** to replace her, and Magistrate Campbell was sworn in on October 25.

Gilmer County

Magistrate Court Clerk **Linda James** retired December 17. Fourteenth Judicial Circuit (Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, and Webster Counties) Judge Jack Alsop appointed **Pam Cutlip** to the position. She is a former magistrate assistant.

Jefferson County

Jefferson County court reporter **Mary “Kathy” Hurley** retired January 29 after 46 years of service. She reported for judges who presided primarily in Jefferson County.



Kanawha County



Photo by Chris Dorst, Charleston Gazette-Mail

Maryclaire Akers was sworn in as a judge in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County) on March 23.

Governor Justice appointed Judge Akers to the seat vacated when Judge **Charles E. King, Jr.**, passed away on December 27, 2020.

Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County) Judge **Tod J. Kaufman** retired March 31. He had been a circuit judge since 1989. Governor Justice appointed Eleventh Family Court Circuit (Kanawha County) Judge **Kenneth Ballard** to the circuit court seat, and he was sworn in on May 17. Judge Ballard had been a family court judge since 2009. Governor Justice



appointed **Julie A. Pence** to replace Judge Ballard on the family court bench.

Pleasants County

Magistrates **Randy Nutter** and **Lisa Taylor** resigned August 13. Third Judicial Circuit (Doddridge, Pleasants, and Ritchie Counties) Judge Timothy Sweeney appointed **Mindy Hadley** and **John Riggs** to the open magistrate positions, and they began work September 7.

Raleigh County

Raleigh County Family Court Secretary **Donzetta Roush** retired September 10. She had worked in the courthouse for 40 years, including time in magistrate court.

Upshur County

Magistrate **Mike Coffman** resigned January 7 and Magistrate **Kay Hurst** resigned January 27. Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit (Lewis and Upshur Counties) Judges Jake Reger and Kurt Hall appointed **Paul M. Davis** to replace Magistrate Coffman and appointed **Alan Suder** to replace Magistrate Hurst. Magistrate Suder presides in the courtroom named in honor of his late father, Eugene Suder, who was an Upshur County Magistrate for many years.

Wyoming County

Twenty-Seventh Judicial Circuit (Wyoming County) Judge **Warren McGraw** retired June 21. He had been a circuit judge since 2009 and served on the Supreme Court from 1998 to 2004. Governor Justice appointed **Michael M. Cochrane** to replace Judge McGraw, and he was sworn in on August 20.



Administrative Office

Mary Greene retired at the end of June from her position as Executive Administrative Assistant to the Administrative Director after 35 years of service.

Deputy Court Marshal **Harold Dailey** retired from the Supreme Court on November 2. He worked for the Supreme Court as a part-time marshal for 16 years after he retired from the West Virginia State Police.



In Memoriam



Former Deputy Administrative Director **Kathleen Gross**

passed away July 18. She was 75. She retired from the Administrative Office of the Courts in 2013 after working for the court system for 25

years: eight years as deputy administrative director, five years as deputy director of judicial education and chief counsel, three years as deputy counsel, and nine years as a *per curiam* law clerk.



Preston County Court Reporter **Rebecca "Becky" Rose Harris**

passed away July 28. She was 64. She was a registered professional reporter for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit (Preston County) for

35 years before her retirement.



Circuit Judge **James O. Holliday**

passed away on February 19. He was 92. Judge Holliday was born October 12, 1928, in Omar, West Virginia. In 1976, he was elected to the bench in the Twenty-Ninth Judicial

Circuit (Putnam County), re-elected in 1984, and served until he retired in 1992. He then served as a senior status judge.



Circuit Judge **David Wesley Knight**

passed away February 20. He was 85. Judge Knight was born September 14, 1935, in Keystone, West Virginia. Former Governor Gaston Caperton appointed

him to the bench in the Ninth Judicial Circuit (Mercer County) in 1989, and he was elected in 1990. He served until his retirement on December 31, 2000. He then served as a senior status judge until November 2013.



Kanawha County Court Administrator **Beverly Selby**

passed away May 17. She had served as court administrator since March 2016. She was previously an assistant prosecutor in Monongalia and

Kanawha Counties.



Preston County Magistrate **Rhonda Sypolt**

passed away December 1. She was 54. She was born April 26, 1967, in Morgantown, West Virginia. She had been a magistrate since January 1, 2021. She

previously worked as a Preston County Deputy Magistrate Court Clerk from 2002 to 2013.



Former IT Deputy Director **Dave Wilkinson**

passed away December 28. He was 61. He was born November 6, 1960, in Charleston, West Virginia. He began working for the Administrative Office

of the Courts in October 2002 and retired in February 2018.

Hancock County Circuit Clerk **Charles Wright** passed away December 11. He was 68. Wright was elected circuit clerk in 2016.





Jackson County Courthouse, July 2021

West Virginia Court System 2021 Annual Report



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