

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

RE: APPOINTMENT TO THE MASS LITIGATION PANEL AND DESIGNATION OF CHAIR

Pursuant to Rule 26.02 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules, the Chief Justice, with the approval of the Supreme Court of Appeals, shall appoint seven (7) active or senior status circuit court judges to serve on the Mass Litigation Panel ("Panel"). "Each appointment is for a term of three (3) years, with two (2) judges to be appointed each year; provided, however, that beginning in 2009 and in every third year thereafter, three (3) judges shall be appointed. There is no prohibition against serving successive terms." *Id.* Further, "[t]he Chief Justice shall annually designate a Panel member to serve as its Chair to preside over the activities of the Panel and to report to the Supreme Court of Appeals." *Id.*

The terms of the Honorable Alan D. Moats, Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, and the Honorable Christopher J. McCarthy, Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, will expire on June 30, 2023, thereby creating two vacancies on the Panel.

The Court has approved the Honorable Jason A. Wharton, Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, to serve as a member of the Panel for the term July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026. The other vacancy will be filled in due time.


The Chief Justice designates the Honorable Joanna I. Tabit, Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, to serve as the Panel Chair.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Honorable Jason A. Wharton is appointed to serve on the Panel from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, and that the Honorable Joanna I. Tabit is designated to serve as Chair of the Panel from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, under the provisions of Rule 26.

IT IS THEREFORE ACKNOWLEDGED that the current Panel members and the expiration dates of their terms shall now be as follows:

The Honorable Jay M. Hoke Judge of the Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2024
The Honorable Jack Alsop Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2024
The Honorable Gregory L. Howard, Jr. Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2024
The Honorable Derek C. Swope Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2025
The Honorable Joanna I. Tabit (Chair) Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2025
The Honorable Jason A. Wharton Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2026

ENTERED: JUNE 27, 2023


ELIZABETH D. WALKER
Chief Justice