



# Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

## News

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### Brothers to Sit on Supreme Court on Same Case

For immediate release Monday, April 17, 2023

Photo available at <https://wvcourts.smugmug.com/Hidden-Galleries/nfgSnLK/20220525-LorensenBrothers/>

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Two brothers have been appointed to sit on the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia at the same time.

On Tuesday, April 18, Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties) Judge Michael D. Lorensen is sitting in for Justice William R. Wooton. Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA) Judge Charles O. Lorensen is sitting in for Justice C. Haley Bunn for the same consolidated cases. Justices Wooton and Bunn are recused from the cases.

“I am, as always, grateful to Chief Justice Beth Walker for the opportunity to hear a case with our state’s highest court. It is a special privilege to do so with my brother. I am confident the briefing, argument and conference will be quite an education,” said Judge Michael Lorensen.

The Lorensens come from a family of lawyers in public service. Their father, the late Willard D. Lorensen, was Dean of the West Virginia University College of Law from 1972 to 1978. He began teaching at the law school in 1959 and retired in 1996, after which he was a professor emeritus until his death in 2004. The judges’ late older brother, Richard Lorensen, served as Greenbrier County Prosecuting Attorney for 10 years before working as Chief Public Defender in Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties for another decade. He retired as the Director of West Virginia Public Defender Services’ Appellate Division in Charleston.

The Rule 20 arguments in *Carl J. Martin, II, et al. v. Sherree D. Martin*, No. 22-0417, and *Sherree D. Martin, Executor of the Estate of Shirley A. Martin v. Carl J. Martin, II, et al.*, No. 21-0757, will begin at 10 a.m.

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 argument will be webcast live from a link on the West Virginia Judiciary website: [www.courtswv.gov](http://www.courtswv.gov). A recording will be available on the West Virginia Judiciary YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/wvsupremecourt>.

Judge Michael Lorensen's bio is available at [WV Judicial System Judges \(courtswv.gov\)](http://www.courtswv.gov/judicial-system/judges)  
Judge Charles Lorensen's bio is available at [http://www.courtswv.gov/intermediate-court/Current-Judges/Judge-Lorensen.html](http://www.courtswv.gov/intermediate-court/current-judges/judge-lorensen.html).

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