

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

**SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**Wine and Beverage Merchants of West Virginia, Inc.; Atomic Distributing Company; Beverage Distributors, Inc.; J.C. Distributing Company LLC; Phillip Jay Shifflett; Jo's Globe Distributing Company; and Martin Distributing Company, Plaintiffs**

**vs.) Civil Action No. 17-C-91 (Hancock County)**

**Mountain State Beverage, Inc.; Mountain Eagle, Inc.; Northern Eagle, Inc.; William J. Rucker Jr.; Scott Parkes; and Johnson Brothers Liquor Company, Defendants**

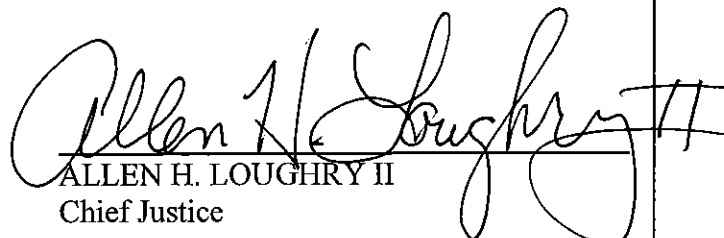
The Honorable David J. Sims, Judge of the First Judicial Circuit, has filed a motion to refer the above-referenced action to the Business Court Division pursuant to Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules ("TCR"). Plaintiffs Wine and Beverage Merchants of West Virginia, Inc.; Atomic Distributing Company; Beverage Distributors, Inc.; J.C. Distributing Company LLC; Phillip Jay Shifflett; Jo's Globe Distributing Company; and Martin Distributing Company, by counsel Eric B. Snyder, Steven R. Ruby, Isaac R. Forman, William J. Ihlenfeld II, and the law firm of Bailey & Glasser LLP, filed a response in support of the motion to refer.

Upon careful review and consideration of the motion and the response thereto, the Chief Justice has determined that the principal claims in the action involve matters of significance to the transactions, operations, or governance between business entities as required by TCR 29.04(a)(1). The mere fact that the action involves individuals does not, of itself, exclude the case from eligibility. The Chief Justice has further determined that specialized treatment is likely to improve the expectation of a fair and reasonable resolution of the controversy as required by TCR 29.04(a)(2), and the motion to refer should therefore be granted.

It is hereby ORDERED that the motion to refer this action to the Business Court Division is granted, and this order shall be transmitted to the Honorable Christopher C. Wilkes, Chair of the Business Court Division, for assignment of a presiding judge and such other actions as are necessary to effectuate the provisions of TCR 29.

It is further ORDERED that a copy of this ORDER be transmitted to the Central Office of the Business Court Division; the Honorable David J. Sims, Judge of the First Judicial Circuit; and to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Hancock County, who is to provide copies of the same to all parties of record or their counsel.

ENTERED: OCTOBER 11, 2017

  
ALLEN H. LOUGHRY II  
Chief Justice