

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

**SWN Production Company, LLC,
Petitioner**

vs.) Civil Action No. 18-C-21 (Wetzel County)

**The Honorable Dale Steager, West Virginia
State Tax Commissioner, the Honorable
Scott Lemley, Assessor of Wetzel County, and
the County Commission of Wetzel County,
Sitting as a Board of Assessment Appeals,
Respondents**

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals has been advised that Petitioner SWN Production Company, LLC, by counsel, Craig A. Griffith, John J. Meadows, and the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, has filed a motion to refer the above-referenced civil action to the Business Court Division pursuant to Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules ("TCR"). Respondent Wetzel County Commission, by counsel, Timothy E. Haught, Prosecuting Attorney, filed a response in opposition to the motion to refer. Respondent Dale Steager, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner, by counsel, Patrick Morrissey, Attorney General, L. Wayne Williams, Assistant Attorney General, and the Office of the Attorney General, filed a response in support of the motion to refer.

Upon careful review and consideration of the motion and the responses 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 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 Jeffrey D. Cramer, Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit; and to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Wetzel County, who is to provide copies of the same to all parties of record or their counsel.

ENTERED: APRIL 27, 2018


MARGARET L. WORKMAN
Chief Justice