



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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New Kanawha Circuit Judge Swearing-In Ceremony Scheduled for March 23

For immediate release Friday, March 19, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Maryclaire Akers will be sworn in as a judge in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County) at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 23 in the Ceremonial Courtroom in the historic Kanawha County Courthouse in Charleston.

The oath of office will be delivered by U.S. District Judge Thomas S. Kleeh of the Northern District of West Virginia.

To comply with Covid guidelines, the ceremony is open only to invited guests, members of the judiciary, and members of the State Bar. The event will be livestreamed on the Kanawha County Commission Facebook page.

Governor Jim Justice appointed Mrs. Akers on March 3 to the seat vacated by the death of Charles E. King, Jr. She will take the bench on Wednesday, March 24.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve Kanawha County as I have for most of the last 20 years, and I look forward to serving the public for many years to come. I am humbled by the confidence shown in me by this appointment by the Governor and by the members of the Judicial Vacancy Advisory Commission,” Mrs. Akers said.

“Maryclaire Akers has had a distinguished career as an attorney and prosecutor, and I welcome her to the judiciary,” said Chief Justice Evan Jenkins. “The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit is one of the busiest in the state, and she has the experience and ability necessary to fairly decide cases and to expeditiously handle a full, varied, and challenging docket.”

Mrs. Akers is a native of Charleston, a 1995 graduate of the West Virginia University Reed College of Media and a 1999 graduate of the West Virginia University College of Law.

She has spent most of her legal career working in the Kanawha County Prosecutor’s Office where she has been Chief of Staff and currently is a Senior Assistant Prosecutor. She has also been a Special Assistant United States Attorney, General Counsel for the

West Virginia Ethics Commission, and an Assistant Attorney General.

She resides in Charleston with her husband, attorney J.B. Akers, and their three children.

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