



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Judge Lorensen Sits on Supreme Court Remotely

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties) Judge Michael D. Lorensen sat on the Supreme Court – remotely – for arguments in one case on Tuesday, April 21.

Chief Justice Tim Armstead appointed Judge Lorensen to replace Justice John Hutchison on the case because he was recused. Judge Lorensen heard a Rule 19 Argument in **SER T.K. v. Hon. Lora Dyer, Judge; WV DHHR, and T.C. No. 19-1135.**

Because of the COVID-19 emergency, the Supreme Court heard that case and two others via Webex. The Court is hearing only cases in time-sensitive abuse and neglect and criminal matters. Other cases are being rescheduled.

“It is always a pleasure and honor to serve our highest court,” Judge Lorensen said. “Clerk Eydie Gaiser and her staff as well as the administrative support were enormously helpful in getting the matter heard. The argument was informative and orderly.

“While I would have preferred an in-person hearing, the Court is doing what needs to be done to be flexible, adapt to our environment and fulfill our mission,” the Judge said.

Judge Lorensen is a native of Morgantown. He has a 1981 bachelor’s degree in journalism from West Virginia University and a 1984 law degree from West Virginia University College of law.

He worked three years as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Charles Haden in the Southern District of West Virginia before practicing law for twenty-five years in Martinsburg at the firm Bowles Rice. His practice focused on civil litigation, although he also did criminal law and for seven years was a member of the panel of court-appointed attorneys in federal courts.

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin appointed him to the bench in 2012 and he was elected in 2014 and re-elected in 2016. He was a member of Governor Tomblin’s 2014 West Virginia Intergovernmental Task Force on Juvenile Justice He was a member of the Judicial Hearing Board, a member of the local rules committee for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia, and a former member of the board of the West Virginia Board of Law Examiners. He formerly served thirteen years on the Shenandoah Community Health Control Board of Directors, including two years as Board President.

Judge Lorensen and his wife, Maria, have two children.

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