

Chief Justice Establishes Advisory Council for Intermediate Court of Appeals For immediate release August 31, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Chief Justice Evan Jenkins has entered an administrative order naming an advisory council to provide input in developing the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

"The full court and our administrative team are working hard to facilitate the new Intermediate Court of Appeals authorized by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor earlier this year," said Chief Justice Jenkins. "The Court feels strongly that a key to success is the opportunity for stakeholder engagement. We are committed to transparency. The Court is always working to build and maintain the trust and confidence of the citizens that justice in West Virginia is fair, impartial, and without bias. I believe creating the advisory council is an important step in the process."

The Intermediate Court of Appeals Advisory Council will be made up of at least twenty appointees, including attorneys, judges, and representatives from the other two branches of government. The Chief Justice will extend an invitation to each of the designated organizations mentioned in the <u>order</u>, providing an opportunity to submit one or more recommendations of individuals to be considered for appointment to the advisory council.

The advisory council will be composed of individuals selected by the Chief Justice and *ex-officio* members of the council, including the Clerk of the Court, the Administrative Director, and others.

"The new intermediate appellate court is a first for West Virginia and we are working each and every day to have it fully operational by next July as the law states," said Chief Justice Jenkins. "We have a lot of work to do in the months ahead but are on track to get the job done."

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