



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

Administrative Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Bldg. 1, Room, E-316
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy
(304) 340-2306 April Harless
(304) 558-1212 FAX
Web Site: www.courtswv.gov
Facebook: [wvjudiciary](https://www.facebook.com/wvjudiciary)
Twitter: [WVCourts](https://twitter.com/WVCourts)
SmugMug: <https://wvcourts.smugmug.com>
Email: Jennifer.Bundy@courtswv.gov
Email: April.Harless@courtswv.gov

Chief Justice Administers Updated Attorney Oath

For immediate release Thursday, July 29, 2021

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Chief Justice Evan Jenkins joined Cabell and Wayne County judges and attorneys in pledging integrity, dignity, civility, and showing respect to others in the work they do in the courts and the legal profession. The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals recently added new civility language to the oath all lawyers take when first admitted to practice law in West Virginia.

“Today is about being leaders and leading by example. I’m proud of the work of the Justices of the West Virginia Supreme Court and our decision to add new civility language to the oath to practice law in our state. We can all see institutions that should be based on trust and integrity being torn down across our country. It is up to each of us to do what we can to reassure the public that the justice system is fair, equal, and accessible for all and that each of us can and will conduct ourselves in a civil manner and respect each other,” Chief Justice Jenkins said.

This was the first time the updated oath has been administered since the civility language was officially adopted by the West Virginia Supreme Court after being made available for public comment.

The West Virginia State Bar supported the Court’s adoption of the new civility language. “It reminds us that we not only have a duty to our clients but to the system as a whole and this is one of those times that it’s not always about who wins or loses but how you play the game,” said West Virginia State Bar President Tom Scarr.

“What I like about this oath is including specific reference to, ‘court staff and all other persons.’ We need to remember to always talk to the staff the same way you would to the lawyer or anyone else,” said Chief Circuit Judge Greg Howard, pointing out the importance of civility for everyone.

West Virginia State Bar District Representative David Amsbary, who has practiced law in West Virginia for almost twenty years, said he is amazed at the civility that already exists. It isn’t something that just happened. “We really need to thank the attorneys before us that set that tone. We are really just fostering their good work,” Mr. Amsbary said.

“While we do a good job at being civil to each other, it is always nice to have a reminder,” said Cabell County Bar Association President Patty Jennings.

The oath with the new language underlined is as follows:

“I do solemnly swear or affirm that: I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of West Virginia; that I will honestly demean myself in the practice of law; that I will conduct myself with integrity, dignity and civility and show respect toward judges, court staff, clients, fellow professionals and all other persons; and to the best of my ability, execute my office of attorney-at-law; so help me God.”

##