



# Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

## News

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### Justices Wish Judge Kaufman Well in His Retirement

For immediate release Tuesday, March 9, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Supreme Court Justices on Tuesday wished Judge Tod J. Kaufman well in his retirement, which he announced in a letter to the Governor on Monday.

Judge Kaufman was elected to the bench in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County) in 1988 and re-elected in 1992, 2000, 2008, and 2016, serving as Chief Judge of West Virginia's largest circuit several times. His retirement will be effective at the end of March.

"Judge Kaufman, like his father, Congressman Paul J. Kaufman, before him, dedicated his career to public service," said Chief Justice Evan Jenkins. "The Kaufman family has given so much to the state of West Virginia, and the state is a better place because of their service."

"I wish Judge Kaufman the very best in his retirement and thank him for his decades of service to our community and state," said Justice Beth Walker. "I have always admired the compassion and empathy he shows the parties and the lawyers who appear in his court, and his deep commitment to supporting his colleagues in the judiciary."

"I have known Judge Kaufman for many years during both his legislative and judicial careers," said Justice Tim Armstead. "I commend him on his years of service and know that he and his wife, Barrie, will enjoy spending more time with their family."

Justice John A. Hutchison a former Circuit Court Judge from Raleigh County, said, "I consider Tod Kaufman to be a personal and close friend. Judge Kaufman and I worked together in the West Virginia Judicial Association for nearly 25 years. Tod Kaufman has always been a very good judge and has worked diligently for the West Virginia Judicial Association for all the judges in the state, including circuit judges, family court judges and magistrates, as well as dedicating his life to the citizens of West Virginia. His absence from the bench will be clearly noticed in the future."

"Judge Kaufman and I served in the Legislature together, and as an attorney I appeared before him in his courtroom," said Justice William R. Wooton. "He was always fair and

thoughtful in his rulings and kind to litigants. He is truly an outstanding public servant and Judge; he served Kanawha County well.”

Judge Kaufman was born and raised in Charleston. He was educated in the public schools of Kanawha County and attended preparatory education at George School in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He graduated cum laude from Tufts University in 1975 with a double major in English and political science.

He worked as a paralegal in the Washington, D.C., law firm of Covington & Burling and received a law degree from West Virginia University College of Law in 1980. He served a clerkship on the United States Tax Court during law school before joining his late father’s Charleston law firm of Kaufman & Ratliff in 1980.

Then-Governor John D. Rockefeller IV appointed him to the West Virginia State Senate in 1982 and he was elected in 1984. After his legislative term ended, he was elected to the bench.

Judge Kaufman has lectured by invitation at an international law conference in Croatia (his speech in Croatia on class actions in America was published internationally); on constitutional law as a judicial scholar at Hampton-Sydney College in Virginia; at Trinity College Law School in Dublin, Ireland; and at Harvard College (on the judicial process in America, 2015).

Judge Kaufman is a former member of the Mass Litigation Panel and Past President and Executive Officer of the West Virginia Judicial Association. He is married to artist Barrie Kaufman and they have three grown children.

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