



## 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](http://www.courtswv.gov)  
Facebook: [wvjudiciary](https://www.facebook.com/wvjudiciary)  
Twitter: [WVCourts](https://twitter.com/WVCourts)  
SmugMug: <https://www.courtswv.gov/smugmug>  
Email: [Jennifer.Bundy@courtswv.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Bundy@courtswv.gov)  
Email: [April.Harless@courtswv.gov](mailto:April.Harless@courtswv.gov)

## Supreme Court to Announce Important Change in Lawyer's Oath

For immediate release Monday, May 17, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – All five Supreme Court Justices will attend an important announcement at 11 a.m. Monday in the Supreme Court Chamber.

Chief Justice Evan Jenkins will sign an order provisionally adopting and releasing for public comment the addition of a civility pledge to the oath lawyers take when they are admitted to the practice of law. The Justices; Tom Scarr, President of the West Virginia State Bar; and Jason Pizatella, President of the West Virginia Board of Law Examiners, will take the newly expanded oath at the event on Monday.

“West Virginians are by nature friendly and civil, and our attorneys are courteous to each other, the judiciary, and the public,” said Supreme Court Chief Justice Evan Jenkins. “This pledge alerts everyone in our profession and the public that being kind and respectful is not just a good idea, it is now a professional standard to practice law in our state.”

“This is another step the current Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia is taking to improve the practice of law in West Virginia,” Chief Justice Jenkins said.

After the comment period, the Court will review the comments and decide on final adoption. 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.”

The order putting the new oath out for public comment will be signed Monday and then will be on the Supreme Court's website <http://www.courtswv.gov/legal-community/requests-for-comment.html>. Comments must be filed in writing with the Office of the Clerk, Supreme Court of Appeals, State Capitol Rm E-317, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25305.