



Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

News

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Mark Sorsaia To Be Sworn In As Circuit Judge

For immediate release Wednesday, November 13, 2024

WINFIELD, W.Va. – Mark Sorsaia will be sworn in as a judge in the Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit (Putnam County) in a ceremonial investiture at 3 p.m. Friday, November 15, in a third-floor courtroom at the Putnam County Judicial Building in Winfield.

He replaces Judge Joseph K. Reeder, who resigned to accept an appointment as a federal magistrate judge in the Southern District of West Virginia. Judge Sorsaia took the oath of office privately so he could start work on November 6.

At the time of his appointment, Judge Sorsaia was Cabinet Secretary for the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security.

Judge Sorsaia received a bachelor's degree in political science and public administration from West Virginia University in 1981 and a law degree from Ohio Northern University in 1984. He began his public service career in 1988 as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Putnam County. He was elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1996 and was re-elected several times, serving in that position until he became a Cabinet Secretary.

He is a past Vice President of the West Virginia Association of Counties. He has served on the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Association. He was also Chair of the Executive Committee of the West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute, West Virginia's representative on the Board of Directors of the National District Attorneys Association, and a member of The Board of Regents of the National College of District Attorneys and the National District Attorneys Association. As a prosecutor, he was a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education programs for law enforcement and prosecutors, including at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. He taught about the use of forensic science, trial advocacy, and professional ethics.

Judge Sorsaia has family in Fraziers Bottom, Putnam County, and lives in Hurricane.