

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

RE: APPOINTMENTS OF THE HONORABLE JACK ALSOP, SENIOR STATUS JUDGE, AND THE HONORABLE CHAD LOVEJOY, JUDGE-ELECT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, TO THE MASS LITIGATION PANEL **EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025**

Pursuant to Rule 26.02 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules, the Chief Justice, with the approval of the Supreme Court of Appeals, shall appoint seven (7) active or senior status circuit court judges to serve on the Mass Litigation Panel ("Panel"). "Each appointment is for a term of three (3) years, with two (2) judges to be appointed each year; provided, however, that beginning in 2009 and in every third year thereafter, three (3) judges shall be appointed. There is no prohibition against serving successive terms." *Id.* Further, "[t]he Chief Justice shall annually designate a Panel member to serve as its Chair to preside over the activities of the Panel and to report to the Supreme Court of Appeals." *Id.*

The Honorable Jack Alsop, Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit and a current member of the Panel, who has been approved for admission to Senior Status upon his retirement effective December 31, 2024, has agreed to continue serving as a member of the Panel through June 30, 2027. The Court has approved Judge Alsop to continue serving as a member of the Panel through June 30, 2027.

The circuit judge term of office for the Honorable Robert E. Ryan, Judge of the Twenty-First Judicial Circuit and a current member of the Panel, will end on December 31, 2024. The Court has approved the Honorable Chad Lovejoy, who has been elected as a circuit judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit to take office on January 1, 2025, to serve on the Panel from January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.


There is one additional vacancy on the Panel that will be filled in due time.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Honorable Jack Alsop, Senior Status Judge effective January 1, 2025, is appointed to continue to serve on the Panel through June 30, 2027, under the provisions of Rule 26, and that the Honorable Chad Lovejoy, Judge-Elect of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, is appointed to serve on the Panel from January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, under the provisions of Rule 26.

IT IS THEREFORE ACKNOWLEDGED that the Panel members and the expiration dates of their terms will be as follows on **January 1, 2025**:

<b>The Honorable Gregory L. Howard, Jr. (Chair)</b> Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2027
<b>The Honorable Stephanie Abraham</b> Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2025
<b>The Honorable Perri Jo DeChristopher</b> Judge of the Twenty-First Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2025
<b>The Honorable Jason A. Wharton</b> Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2026
<b>The Honorable Chad Lovejoy</b> Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit	June 30, 2026
<b>The Honorable Jack Alsop</b> Senior Status Judge	June 30, 2027

ENTERED: NOVEMBER 25, 2024

  
TIM ARMSTEAD  
Chief Justice