

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF THE HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER C. WILKES TO THE BUSINESS COURT DIVISION, APPOINTMENT OF THE HONORABLE ANDREW G. DIMLICH TO THE BUSINESS COURT DIVISION, AND REAPPOINTMENT OF THE HONORABLE MICHAEL D. LORENSEN AS CHAIR OF THE BUSINESS COURT DIVISION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Rule 29.02 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules, the Business Court Division “consists of up to seven (7) active or senior status circuit court judges who shall be appointed by the Chief Justice, with the approval of the Supreme Court of Appeals. Each appointment is for a term of seven (7) years.” Furthermore, “[b]eginning in 2012 and every three years thereafter, the Chief Justice shall designate a judge of the Division to serve as its Chair”

WHEREAS, the term of the Honorable Christopher C. Wilkes, Senior Status Judge, will expire on December 31, 2024. Judge Wilkes has agreed to continue serving as a member of the Business Court Division. The Court has approved the reappointment of Judge Wilkes to continue serving on the Business Court Division through December 31, 2031.

WHEREAS, the Court has approved the Honorable Andrew G. Dimlich, Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, to serve on the Business Court Division through December 31, 2025, to replace the Honorable Joseph K. Reeder, who resigned as Circuit Judge of the Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit on August 30, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Honorable Michael D. Lorensen, Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit, was designated to serve as Chair of the Business Court Division through December 31, 2024. The Chief Justice has approved for Judge Lorensen to continue serving as Chair through the end of his Term on the Business Court Division on December 31, 2026, and if he is thereafter reappointed to serve on the Business Court Division, he is approved to continue as its Chair through December 31, 2027.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Honorable Christopher C. Wilkes, Senior Status Judge, be, and he hereby is, reappointed to serve on the Business Court Division under the provisions of Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules through December 31, 2031.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Honorable Andrew G. Dimlich, Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, be, and he hereby is, appointed to serve on the Business Court Division under the provisions of Rule 29 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules from the date of this order through December 31, 2025.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Honorable Michael D. Lorensen, Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit, is to continue serving as Chair of the Business Court Division through the end of his Term on the Business Court Division on December 31, 2026, and if he is thereafter reappointed to serve on the Business Court Division, he is approved to continue as its Chair through December 31, 2027.

IT IS FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGED that the Business Court Division members and the expiration dates of their terms shall be as follows:

Honorable Andrew G. Dimlich Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit	December 31, 2025
Honorable Michael D. Lorensen (Chair) Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit	December 31, 2026
Honorable Shawn D. Nines Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit	December 31, 2027

Honorable Maryclaire Akers
Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

December 31, 2028

Honorable David M. Hammer
Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit

December 31, 2029

Honorable Robert E. Richardson
Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit

December 31, 2030

Honorable Christopher C. Wilkes
Senior Status Judge.

December 31, 2031

IT IS FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGED that the passage of HB 3332 (2023) alters, in part, the judicial circuit numbers effective January 1, 2025. Therefore, effective January 1, 2025, the Business Court Division members and the expiration dates of their terms will be as follows:

Honorable Andrew G. Dimlich
Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

December 31, 2025

Honorable Michael D. Lorensen (**Chair**)
Judge of the Twenty-Seventh Judicial Circuit

December 31, 2026

Honorable Shawn D. Nines
Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit

December 31, 2027

Honorable Maryclaire Akers
Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit

December 31, 2028

Honorable David M. Hammer
Judge of the Twenty-Eighth Judicial Circuit

December 31, 2029

Honorable Robert E. Richardson
Judge of the Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit

December 31, 2030

Honorable Christopher C. Wilkes
Senior Status Judge.

December 31, 2031

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia record this Order in the office of said Clerk.

ENTERED: DECEMBER 3, 2024



TIM ARMSTEAD
Chief Justice