



Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

News

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Judicial Day of Mourning Declared for Sept. 2

For release Thursday, August 28, 2025

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – In commemoration [of memorial services](#) for late Justice Tim Armstead, Chief Justice William R. “Bill” Wooton today issued an administrative order declaring Tuesday, Sept. 2, as a Day of Mourning for offices operating within the West Virginia Judicial System.

“Tim Armstead was cherished by colleagues across the judicial branch, and his sudden passing has been a shock to us all,” Chief Justice Wooton said. “This Day of Mourning will allow judicial officers and employees to take time to celebrate Tim’s life, to express our deepest condolences to his family, and to reflect upon and honor his remarkable service to our state.”

Services for Justice Armstead are scheduled in the House of Delegates Chamber at the State Capitol on Tuesday, Sept. 2, with public visitation from 3-6 p.m. and a memorial service following at 6 p.m.

As part of the Day of Mourning, the order calls for a cessation of business for offices and employees on Sept. 2. It applies to all judicial offices and judicial employees operating under the authority, supervision or control of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, including the Intermediate Court of Appeals and magistrate, family and circuit court offices statewide.

The chief circuit judge of each judicial circuit is instructed to take necessary measures to ensure access to magistrate court services during the mourning period.

Circuit judges, family court judges and magistrates will have the discretion to move forward with time-sensitive matters already scheduled on their docket as they deem necessary.

Individuals or parties with proceedings that were scheduled for Sept. 2 should check with the office of the circuit judge, circuit clerk, family court or magistrate staff to inquire about the status of their proceedings and whether they will be rescheduled if they have not yet been notified of any changes.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

RE: DAY OF MOURNING DECLARED FOR JUSTICE TIM ARMSTEAD

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia and the people of this State mourn the passing of beloved Justice Tim Armstead on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, and the Court does proclaim that, in honor of the death of the late Justice Armstead, a Day of Mourning will be observed by the West Virginia Judiciary and its employees on Tuesday, September 2, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Justice Armstead of Kanawha County dedicated his life to serving West Virginians for a remarkable career of four decades of public service in all three branches of state government, and as a Knight of the Golden Horseshoe, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and a champion for the State of West Virginia and his community, especially through the devastating floods of 2016; and

WHEREAS, Justice Armstead was appointed to serve as Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia in August 2018, elected to the position in November 2018, and re-elected in June 2020; and

WHEREAS, his unwavering commitment to ensuring public trust and faith in the judicial branch from his first days on the bench and every day thereafter began a new and positive chapter in the Court's history; and

WHEREAS, Justice Armstead served as the Chief Justice for the Court during the global pandemic of 2020, shepherding the Judiciary through the unprecedented and troubling times with sound leadership and grace, and again serving as Chief Justice in 2024 calling for a review of the ethical rules that bind judicial officers and working to retain and recruit attorneys to provide critical representation for children; and

WHEREAS, Justice Armstead was a dedicated, thoughtful, and highly intelligent jurist, ensuring each matter before the Court received methodical and careful review; and

WHEREAS, throughout his public service, Justice Armstead sought to strengthen transparency and ethical practices across government and consistently protect the hard-earned money of taxpayers in government spending; and

WHEREAS, Justice Armstead lived his life in all respects as a person of integrity, service, conviction, and faith, and serves as an inspiration to all those who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII §3, of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia provides that the chief justice shall be the administrative head of all the courts;

It is, therefore, ORDERED that a Day of Mourning shall be observed by judicial offices operating within the West Virginia Judicial System on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, and there will be a cessation of business for employees of the Court on that date. This Order applies to all judicial offices and judicial employees operating under the authority, supervision, or control of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

It is further ORDERED that the chief circuit judge of each circuit shall notify the magistrates and magistrate clerk's offices of this day and shall make an appropriate directive to provide the availability of magistrate court services on this date. Such directives may include, but are not limited to, provisions for filing with magistrate court clerks, directing a particular magistrate or magistrates to be on duty or on call, or such other local provision as will ensure access to the magistrate court. Further, judicial officers may, at their discretion, hear time sensitive matters.

The Administrative Office is hereby directed to distribute copies of this Administrative Order by appropriate means to the Intermediate Court of Appeals, all circuit judges, family court judges, and magistrates.

ENTERED: August 28, 2025



WILLIAM R. WOOTON
Chief Justice