



Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

News

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Senior Status Justice Hutchison Assigned to Fill Temporary Vacancy on Supreme Court

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Chief Justice William R. “Bill” Wooton today announced he has appointed Senior Status Justice John A. Hutchison to temporarily fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia following the death of Justice Tim Armstead.

“I am grateful for Justice Hutchison’s willingness to return and serve on the Court as we navigate this difficult time,” Chief Justice Wooton said. “While we mourn the loss of Justice Armstead, we know Tim would want to see the work of this Court and its service to the people of our state continue with as little interruption as possible. Justice Hutchison served this Court admirably for six years before his retirement at the end of 2024, and there’s no one I trust more to be able to quickly step in and serve as the Court begins its fall term and argument docket this month.”

Justice Hutchison was first appointed to the Court by Gov. Jim Justice in December 2018 and later elected in 2020 to a term which ended December 31, 2024. He served as chief justice in 2022. He was a circuit court judge in the Tenth Judicial Circuit (Raleigh County) from 1995 until his appointment to the Supreme Court in 2018. Following his retirement, he became a senior status justice and continued to serve on the Mass Litigation Panel.

“Tim Armstead was a dedicated public servant and treasured colleague of mine for many years,” Justice Hutchison said. “While this is a difficult time of transition, I thank Chief Justice Wooton for this opportunity to honor Tim’s legacy by ensuring this Court continues the diligent, thoughtful and deliberate service to the people that was a hallmark of Tim’s time on the bench.”

Justice Hutchison will continue to serve on the Supreme Court by temporary assignment until a new justice is appointed by Gov. Patrick Morrisey to fill Justice Armstead’s vacancy.

The Supreme Court will begin holding oral arguments as part of its fall term [on September 16](#).

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