



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Judges and Journalists Conference For immediate release Monday, April 12, 2010

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – Plans are being finalized for the Regional Judges and Journalists Conference in the Eastern Panhandle.

The meeting will be 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, April 30, at the Berkeley County Judicial Center, 380 West South Street, in Martinsburg. The conference will be held in the Fourth Floor Grand Jury Suite.

Print and broadcast reporters, photographers, editors, and judicial officers from the northeastern part of West Virginia are invited, but others also may attend if they wish.

Registration is not required, but for preparation purposes, anyone who plans to attend is asked to contact Public Information Specialist April Harless at (304) 340-2306 or e-mail her at april.harless@courtsww.gov.

So far, eighteen judges and magistrates have confirmed they will attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to encourage better communication between the judiciary and the media so judicial officers and reporters better understand each others' jobs and perspectives.

The agenda will be as follows:

- 8:45 a.m. Registration**
- 9 a.m. Welcoming remarks by Justice Brent Benjamin**
- 9:30 a.m. Overview of West Virginia courts by Court Administrative Director Steve Canterbury**
- 10 a.m. Access to Information Panel Discussion
(Panelists include Supreme Court Public Information Officer Jennifer Bundy, Monongalia County Magistrate Clerk Caroline Stoker, Circuit Judge David Sanders, and Circuit Judge Christopher Wilkes)**
- 11:15 a.m. Break**
- 11:30 a.m. Open Discussion led by Judges Sanders and Wilkes
(Discussion to include issue of cameras in courtrooms and any other concerns reporters raise)**
- 12:30 p.m. Closing remarks by Justice Benjamin, Steve Canterbury**

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