



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

Administrative Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Bldg. 1, Room E-316
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy
(304) 340-2306 April Harless
(304) 558-4219 / TTY
(304) 558-1212 / FAX
Web Site: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca>
Information Services Division
Email: Jennifer.bundy@courtwv.gov
Email: April.harless@courtsww.gov

Judicial Leadership Roundtable to focus on child abuse, neglect and youth services For immediate release Monday, March 22, 2010

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia’s last regional judicial leadership roundtable focusing on child abuse and neglect and youth services will be held March 25-26 at the Charleston Marriott. More than a dozen circuit court judges are to attend.

The roundtables are sponsored by a U.S. Administration for Children and Families Court Improvement Program training grant. The meetings give circuit judges an opportunity to discuss among their peers best practices for achieving permanency, safety, and well-being for children involved in child abuse and neglect and youth services cases.

Judge Gary L. Johnson of the Twenty-Eighth Judicial Circuit in Nicholas County is chairman of the West Virginia Court Improvement Program Oversight Board. He and Senior Status Judge Robert B. Stone are co-chairmen of the training committee that planned the roundtables.

Judge Johnson and Supreme Court Justice Thomas McHugh will speak at this roundtable, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25.

Five regional roundtables were scheduled in March and April 2009. A retired judge associated with the National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues has helped conduct the training at each location. This roundtable is for any judge who was not able to attend one last year, so judges from around the state and senior status judges and Supreme Court Justices may attend.

West Virginia underwent a Child and Family Services Review by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families Children’s Bureau in 2008. Preliminary findings of the review have been discussed at each roundtable. Best practices identified at the roundtables will assist in future training of judges, attorneys, social workers, and others involved in the child abuse and neglect and youth services court processes.

The roundtables are closed to the press and the public to foster a more open discussion among judges. Participating judges may be available at the conclusion for comment. For more information about the judicial roundtables or child abuse and neglect and youth services, contact Nikki Tennis at (304) 558-0145.

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