



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Sex Offender Intensive Supervision Officers Hired **For immediate release Friday, July 1, 2011**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Supreme Court Chief Justice Margaret L. Workman will swear in seven new probation officers on Friday, July 8. The group will join the ranks of West Virginia's specialized sex offender intensive supervision officers, or SOISOs.

The ceremony will be at 10 a.m. in the Supreme Court Chamber, on the third floor of the East Wing of the Capitol.

The officers will work in Region One, which consists of Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan, Mineral, Grant, Tucker, Hampshire, Hardy, and Pendleton Counties.

The specialized officers work under provisions of the Child Protection Act of 2006 (House Bill 101, passed June 14, 2006). The law requires extended supervision for sex offenders, especially those convicted of crimes against children.

The officers' only duty is to supervise sex offenders. They work out of their cars, not offices. They work holidays, nights, weekends, and hours in between to provide intensive supervision. The officers also work with circuit court judges and treatment providers to make sure offenders are complying with court orders. The extended supervision includes polygraph examinations and electronic monitoring.

The first group of sex offender probation officers was hired in November 2008. The supervision program is being expanded one region at a time throughout the state. With the hiring of these officers, there are now twenty-seven SOISO officers in forty-four counties.

The SOISO program was developed under the leadership of Justice Robin Jean Davis when she was Chief Justice in 2006 and 2007. Her support was crucial in refining the vision of the supervision protocol. Her work was a continuation of her interest in protecting children in our communities during her "Year of the Child" in 2006 and "Year of the Child, Too" in 2007.

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