



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Justice Davis announces she will run for re-election **For immediate release Wednesday, June 1, 2011**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Justice Robin Jean Davis announced today that she will run for re-election to the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia in the 2012 election.

Justice Davis made her announcement this morning on Hoppy Kercheval's Talkline.

“Besides being a wife and mother, the greatest honor of my life has been serving the people of West Virginia on the Supreme Court of Appeals. My life's work has been dedicated to the law, first as a family law practitioner and a member of the Board of Law Examiners, then as a justice where I have devoted every single day to being the best possible steward of the law that I can be. In that regard, I have brought no preconceptions, no prejudices, no undue influences of any kind into the decision-making process through which I have judged every case that has come before me.

“I have also seized the opportunity whenever I can to make the Court work for all of the people. I'm extremely proud, in that regard, for having led the effort to rewrite rules of procedure, known as the Overlap Project, to protect scores of children who have suffered from abuse and neglect from being victimized still more. Early on during my first year as Chief in 1998, I pioneered the use of a closed circuit system for the courts and the regional jails – the first such statewide system in the nation. It has saved the State millions of dollars and who knows how many untold tragedies since inmates no longer need to be transferred from outside of the secure jail walls for simple court processes.

“More recently, I led the effort that resulted in a completely new set of Rules for Appellate Procedure, a sea change for the Court, changing it from a hundred percent discretionary to a hundred percent non-discretionary – in other words, every appeal receives not only a review but at least a memorandum decision noting reasons that the appeal did not go further in the appeals process. These new rules add total transparency so that everyone has a complete understanding of the disposition of their cases.

“I have been honored to be elected twice in the past to the Supreme Court bench. My record, my character, my opinions all speak for themselves. I hope -- indeed, I

believe – that they speak loudly and clearly enough to the voters for me to be victorious in 2012.”

Justice Davis is the most senior member of the Court, first being elected in 1996 to an unexpired term. She was then re-elected in November 2000 to a full twelve-year term. Justice Davis has served as Chief Justice in 1998, 2002, 2006, 2007, and 2010.

Under her leadership as Chief Justice in 2010, the Court approved Revised Rules of Appellate Procedure, which has changed the appellate process in West Virginia to provide a decision on the merits in every case. The Court in 2010 also approved new Rules of Juvenile Procedure. In her previous terms as Chief Justice, she initiated a number of programs for children and families and programs that keep the Court current with technology changes. These initiatives include the Workers' Compensation Mediation Program; the expansion of parent education programs; Rules on Mass Litigation; the expansion of courtroom technology, including the closed-circuit video initial appearance pilot project; the creation of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules; the establishment of an online Child Abuse and Neglect database; additions to legal rules governing child abuse and neglect proceedings; the LAWS program for high school students; and the Robes to Schools program for all West Virginia school students.

In 2007 she led the West Virginia delegation to the National Judicial Leadership Summit in New York City, and she was responsible for the Court using a competitive federal grant to initiate the West Virginia Domestic Violence Registry.

Under her guidance, the Supreme Court Administrative Office also received other major grants which have been used to improve the way the court system handles abuse and neglect cases. She expanded the Supreme Court's outreach efforts by taking the Court for the first time in recent years to Wheeling and Charles Town, the beginning of what are now regular out-of-Charleston argument dockets.

In 2008 she received the Graduate of Distinction Award from the West Virginia Education Alliance. Justice Davis is the author and co-author of several *West Virginia Law Review* articles. She has given numerous presentations at West Virginia Judicial Association conferences and community forums.

Justice Davis received her bachelor's degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1978, and her master's degree and law degree from West Virginia University in 1982. She was engaged in the private practice of law at the law firm of Segal and Davis, L.C., where she concentrated in the field of employee benefits and domestic relations before her election to the Supreme Court.

Justice Davis was born in Boone County, West Virginia. She is married to Scott Segal and they have one son, Oliver.