



# Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

# News

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## Supreme Court launches new website

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia started its Fall 2011 term this week by launching a new website, [www.courtswv.gov](http://www.courtswv.gov).

The website contains all the information on the previous website, [www.state.wv.us/wvsca](http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca), updated and reorganized for clarity. It also has new features containing details about the judicial system to make West Virginia courts more accessible to the public.

“The Court is pleased to present this site to the public as part of our effort to make the judicial system more transparent,” said Supreme Court Chief Justice Margaret Workman. “The goal is to increase the amount of information about the courts available to the public on the website and to make the information easier for the public to find.”

The new domain name also is designed to make the website easier to find. The old site will remain active but will not be updated; all visitors will be redirected to the new site.

The website has a unified look for all pages. The consistency improves the user experience and makes the website much easier to maintain and update, so the information is more accurate and timely.

The new website also is easier to replicate and read on mobile devices.

The new Supreme Court opinion page – historically the most-used part of the site – has an integrated decision list that combines all of the decisions issued during a court term. Signed opinions, *per curiam* opinions, and memorandum decisions are listed together, but can be sorted and resorted using case type and decision type codes that are based upon the uniform reporting guidelines set forth by the National Center for State Courts.

The Supreme Court Calendar Page also has been redesigned to list only the days the Court is on the bench or in conference and is in larger type, making it easier to read. The new calendar design is replicated on the Law Library section of the website.

There also is a new page explaining the work of the Supreme Court Office of Counsel.

The West Virginia Judicial System encompasses far more than the Supreme Court, and the new website portrays that by containing several new features, including

- Court Information by County, a county-by-county list of judicial officials and offices, with addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, and maps of how each

county fits within its judicial and family court circuit. The previous website has information about court resources in each county, but that information is spread across numerous pages and is presented in numerous different formats. As a result, some of the information is outdated and other information is missing;

- A section on Treatment Courts, which has information about adult and juvenile drug courts in West Virginia with contact information for each as well as information about the re-entry court, the mental health court, and the pre-trial pilot programs;
- A section about the work of Probation Services around West Virginia. Contact information for probation offices is contained on the Court Information by County pages;
- A section on the work of the Court Services Division within the Administration Office of the Supreme Court, with subsections on the myriad projects it does for courts around the state;
- A section on the Access to Justice Commission, including a calendar of meetings and a list of commission members;
- A section on Judicial Projects, which has subsections on the Business Court, the Court Improvement Program, Elder Law, Juvenile Justice Commission, Language Access to Courts, and Truancy;
- A section on the work of courts statewide to combat Domestic Violence;
- A redesigned Press Page that contains a new Frequently Asked Questions feature; and
- Three new slideshows at the top of the website that showcase West Virginia's courthouses, outreach efforts of judicial officials, and the Supreme Court Chamber in the state Capitol designed by Cass Gilbert.

The new website design and contents are the result of a multi-year effort of the Internet Committee of the Supreme Court. The Committee is led by Supreme Court Clerk Rory Perry and Public Information Officer Jennifer Bundy and is made up of representatives of all divisions within the Court.

The Committee asks for the public's patience during the next few months as the website is perfected. Please address comments and any corrections to Ms. Bundy at [Jennifer.bundy@courtswv.gov](mailto:Jennifer.bundy@courtswv.gov).

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