



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Allen Loughry sworn in during ceremony in Supreme Court Chamber

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Allen H. Loughry II was sworn in as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia in a public ceremony today, December 14, 2012, in the Chamber of the Supreme Court.

Justice Margaret L. Workman delivered the oath of office.

Justice Loughry will take office on January 1, 2013. He was elected to a twelve-year term on November 6, 2012.

“I’m giving up a law clerk, although I have talked to him and he’s agreed to maybe continue to do research for me,” Justice Workman joked. Justice Loughry has been Justice Workman’s law clerk since she rejoined the Supreme Court in January 2009. He has worked as a law clerk at the Supreme Court since 2003.

She and the other Justices talked about Justice Loughry’s diligence; several said he did not miss a day of work during the campaign for the Supreme Court. They praised his wife, Kelly, and son, Justus, and congratulated his father, Allen Loughry Sr., who celebrated his 75th Birthday on Friday.

Justice Robin Davis thanked Justice Loughry for running a positive campaign.

The Justices also commented about the book Justice Loughry published in 2006, *Don't Buy Another Vote, I Won't Pay for a Landslide*, a non-partisan look at West Virginia’s history of political corruption.

Justice Thomas E. McHugh, who is retiring on December 31 and whose seat Justice Loughry is filling, said the only other Justice he personally knew who wrote a book was former Justice Richard Neely. When people asked him if he had read Justice Neely’s book, Justice McHugh said he always replied: “No, I saw the play.” He said he can’t say that about Justice Loughry’s book because the topic is public corruption. “We don’t want any part of that play,” he joked.

The 45-minute ceremony was filled with an almost continuous banter between all the Justices. Chief Justice Menis Ketchum at one point brought out a miniature skeleton, a reference to a campaign commercial in which Justice Loughry proclaimed “I don’t have any skeletons in my closet.”

Justice Brent Benjamin said, “We probably never thought we’d have someone here with more degrees than the weather channel,” a reference to Justice Loughry’s four

law degrees. He has a Doctor of Juridical Science from The American University, Washington College of Law; a Master of Laws in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of London; a Master of Laws in Law and Government from The American University, Washington College of Law; and a law degree from Capital University School of Law.

Justice Loughry individually thanked the other Justices and many people in the audience, including his fourth-grade teacher and childhood friends who drove long distances to attend. His son acted as his sidekick several times. After he took the oath of office, Justice Workman presented the younger Loughry with his own judicial robe, which he wore during the rest of the event.

Justice Loughry said he was proud that he and Justice Davis both ran positive campaigns. “You don’t have to tear people down in order to win elections in the state of West Virginia,” he said.

As he traveled the state, he discovered that most West Virginians do not know much about the judicial branch of government. During his 12-year term he would like to work to address that education deficit, he said.

The Loughry family is “an average family.” His electoral victory proves that it is possible for anyone to win, he said.

“The next generation of West Virginians needs to know that they count. They need to know that they matter. They need to know they can make positive changes in West Virginia,” he said.

“This is not my day, this is our day. Thank-you for being here and sharing it with me.”

Justice Loughry was born in Elkins, W.Va., in 1970 and raised in Tucker County.

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