



## Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

# News

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### **Chief Justice to address House, Senate Judiciary Committees**

For immediate release Friday, February 22, 2013

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Supreme Court Chief Justice Brent D. Benjamin will address the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, February 26, in the House of Delegates Chamber.

Chief Justice Benjamin will talk about the effectiveness of West Virginia adult and juvenile courts as an alternative to incarceration for certain non-violent offenders. He will explain how the programs, which last at least a year, are more challenging to complete than jail or prison. He also will explain how the programs save tax dollars because they have been proven to reduce recidivism.

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative last month identified substance abuse as a major factor behind recidivism. The West Virginia judicial system's network of drug courts is an important part of the state's effort to reduce jail and prison overcrowding.

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