



## Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

# News

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### **New Magistrate appointed in Mercer County**

For immediate release Wednesday, February 19, 2014

PRINCETON, W.Va. – Ninth Judicial Circuit (Mercer County) Chief Judge Derek Swope has appointed former Magistrate Charles N. Poe to replace Magistrate Richard D. Fowler, who is retiring effective Feb. 28.

In accordance with §50-1-6, Magistrate Poe and Magistrate Fowler are members of the same political party, in this case the Democratic Party. Magistrate Poe served as magistrate in 2008-2012 and so does not need to be trained. He lost his bid for re-election in 2012, finishing sixth in a general election race in which five candidates were elected.

Although Magistrate Poe served in Bluefield in his previous term, he will take over Magistrate Fowler's duties and his office in the Mercer County Judicial Annex in Princeton. He also will retain Magistrate Fowler's assistant, Kathleen Dillon, who has more than twenty years of experience in the magistrate court system.

Magistrate Poe was the unanimous choice of the three circuit judges in Mercer County.

"After losing and being appointed, it's kind of like being born again. I'm looking forward to coming back, and coming back to Princeton. I worked in Princeton as a police officer for twenty-two years," Magistrate Poe said.

He will be sworn in to office on Feb. 28. He will fill the seat until the general election in 2016, when he plans to seek election to the position once again.

Magistrate Fowler currently is the Chief Magistrate, a job that rotates. After his retirement, Magistrate Sandra S. Dorsey will become Chief Magistrate for the remainder of the 2014 calendar year.

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