



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Justice Benjamin to address rotary in Beckley

For immediate release Wednesday, January 15, 2014

BECKLEY, W.Va. – Supreme Court Justice Brent D. Benjamin will speak to the Beckley Rotary Club at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the Raleigh County Convention Center, 200 Armory Drive (Eisenhower Drive), Beckley.

Justice Benjamin will be available for interviews at 11:30 a.m., before the lunch. He will speak about 12:30 p.m.

Justice Benjamin was elected to a twelve-year term on the Supreme Court in 2004. He served as Chief Justice in 2013 and 2009.

He is a native of Marietta, Ohio. Justice Benjamin is a graduate of The Ohio State University, from which he holds a bachelor's degree and a Juris Doctor degree, and where he played varsity sports. After graduation from law school in 1984, he settled in Charleston, West Virginia, and joined the Robinson & McElwee, PLLC, law firm, eventually becoming a partner/member.

Justice Benjamin has been a leader in the expansion of treatment courts in West Virginia, including Drug Courts, Veterans Courts, and Mental Health Courts. He has actively advanced court access issues, children's issues, drug and mental health issues, and domestic violence issues. As Chief Justice in 2009, he established West Virginia's Access to Justice Commission, a Compliance Committee on Prisons and Jails, a nationally-acclaimed Domestic Violence Database, and a statewide Mental Hygiene Registry. He also has worked to enhance and expand court outreach, public education, and media-court relations.

Away from his judicial duties, he has actively participated in archaeological excavations in the United States and Egypt, including, most recently, the excavation of KV10 and KV63 (the first intact tomb to be discovered in the Valley of the Kings since the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun) and the re-excavation of TT320 (also known as the "Royal Cache Tomb").

Justice Benjamin attends Christ Church United Methodist, in Charleston, and is the father of five children.

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