



# Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

## News

Administrative Office  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Bldg. 1, Room, E-316  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305  
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy  
(304) 340-2306 April Harless  
(304) 558-1212 FAX  
Web Site: [www.courtswv.gov](http://www.courtswv.gov)  
Facebook: [wjudiciary](https://www.facebook.com/wjudiciary)  
Twitter: [WVCourts](https://twitter.com/WVCourts)  
Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/courtswv/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/courtswv/)  
Email: [Jennifer.Bundy@courtswv.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Bundy@courtswv.gov)  
Email: [April.Harless@courtswv.gov](mailto:April.Harless@courtswv.gov)

### Two Circuit Judges Hear Supreme Court Cases

For immediate release Thursday, February 13, 2020

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Two circuit Judges were assigned to sit on the Supreme Court this week to hear arguments in cases in which Justices were recused.

Eleventh Judicial Circuit (Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties) Judge Jennifer Dent heard a Rule 19 Argument in *Jeffery N. Evans, et al. v. Debra Bayles*, No. 18-0876. She replaced Chief Justice Tim Armstead.

Fourth Judicial Circuit (Wirt and Wood Counties) Judge Robert A. Waters heard a Rule 19 Argument in *Benton B. v. Cassidy T.*, No. 18-0569. He replaced Justice John Hutchison.

Both Justices recused themselves voluntarily pursuant to Canon 2, Rule 2.11 of the Code of Judicial Conduct and Rule 33 of the Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Judge Dent was elected on May 10, 2016, to a term that began on January 1, 2017. On May 19, 2016, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin appointed her to the same seat to serve the remaining seven months on the term of Judge James Rowe, who retired.

Judge Dent is a native of Lewisburg. She has a 1983 bachelor's degree in business from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a 1986 law degree from the Cumberland School of Law.

In 1986 she worked for the Central Bank of the South. She then joined the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern Division of Alabama, Eastern Division, where she was a law clerk from 1987 to 1989 and the Deputy Clerk in Charge from 1989 to 1991. She was an attorney in Birmingham, Ala., from 1991 to 1993.

She returned to West Virginia in 1994. She was an assistant prosecutor in Summers County (1994 to 2002) and an assistant prosecutor in Monroe County (1998 to 2002). From 2002 until her appointment to the bench, she was an assistant prosecutor in Greenbrier County. In that role, she prosecuted child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency and juvenile status offenses and misdemeanor and felony cases.

Judge Waters was born and raised in Parkersburg. He has a 1976 bachelor's degree in government and economics from West Virginia Wesleyan College and a 1979 law degree from West Virginia University College of Law, where he was a member of the West Virginia Law Review and won the AmJur Award in Criminal Law.

He was in private practice in Parkersburg from 1979 to 1992 and was an assistant Wood County prosecutor from 1979 to 1982 and from 1989 to 1992.

He was elected to the bench in 1992 and re-elected in 2000, 2008, and 2016.