

Moorefield Regional Meeting Presenter Bios

C. Casey Forbes

C. Casey Forbes is the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia and the Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia. Casey is the sixteenth person to serve as Clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia since the State was founded in 1863, and the second Clerk of the Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia since it was founded in 2022.

Casey is a native of Charleston. He has a bachelor's degree in English from Shepherd University, a master's degree in English from the College of Charleston, S.C./Citadel, and a law degree from the University of Montana. He has worked in the Office of the Clerk since 2018 as a staff attorney then deputy clerk. He previously served as a staff attorney for the West Virginia Legislature; a writ clerk in the Supreme Court's Office of Counsel; an attorney in private practice, during which time he was appointed as a mental hygiene commissioner in and for Kanawha County; and an assistant attorney general.

Rachael L. Fletcher Cipoletti

Rachael L. Fletcher Cipoletti is Chief Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel for the West Virginia Office of Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel. She has been with the ODC since 2002 and became Chief Disciplinary Counsel in 2008. Rachael also serves as Special Judicial Disciplinary Counsel for the Judicial Investigation Commission. Rachael is a frequent lecturer on ethics and professionalism for the West Virginia University College of Law, the WV State Bar, and the American Bar Association.

Rachael is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, United States Southern District of West Virginia, United States Northern District of West Virginia, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States of America. Rachael was previously an attorney with Legal Aid of West Virginia. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from West Virginia University and also earned her Juris Doctorate from West Virginia University. She currently serves on the Future of the Law Committee for the WV State Bar, is the ODC liaison to the WV Judicial and Lawyer Assistance Program, serves on the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being, and serves on the ABA's standing committee for the Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs Consortium on Professionalism Initiatives. She is a lifetime member of the West Virginia University Alumni Association, a member of the American Bar Association, a member of the Center for Professional Responsibility, and a member of the National Organization of Bar Counsel.

Judge James W. Courier, Jr, Twenty-First Judicial Circuit

Judge James W. "Jay" Courier, Jr., was raised in Keyser. He has a 1988 associate's degree in English from Potomac State College and a 1989 bachelor's degree in English from West Virginia University. He has a 1993 law degree from West Virginia University College of Law, where he was Order of the Barristers, on the National Moot Court team, and won the Best Brief Award in the annual Baker Cup appellate advocacy competition.

Then-Governor Earl Ray Tomblin appointed Judge Courier to the bench in the Twenty-First Judicial Circuit (Grant, Mineral and Tucker Counties) on January 12, 2016, to fill a vacancy created by the December 31, 2015, retirement of his predecessor. He was sworn into office on February 2, 2016. In May 2016 he was elected to a full eight-year term beginning January 1, 2017.

Judge Courier previously had been the elected Mineral County Prosecuting Attorney for seven years. He began his legal career in 1994 as an associate with the Law Office of Barr and James. In 1996 he became a sole practitioner and began working as assistant prosecuting attorney for Mineral County. He also worked part time as Allegany County's assistant state's attorney in Maryland.

He is a member of the Mineral County Parks and Recreation Board, the Mineral County Community Criminal Justice Board and Chairman of the Mineral County Courthouse Security Committee.

He is the past president and long-time treasurer of the Kiwanis Club of Keyser. He is president of the Potomac State College Alumni Association and Apple Alley Players community theatre group. He is a member of the boards of Community Lutheran Partners, Food for Thought, Faith in Action Food Pantry, and the Keyser Youth Basketball League. As an attorney he was active in the Mineral County Bar Association and its committees.