

## **Huntington 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 H. Young, Jr. , Twenty-Fourth Judicial Circuit**

Judge Young is a native of Wayne. He graduated from Ceredo-Kenova High School in 1971, Marshall University in 1974, and West Virginia University College of Law in 1979.

He was a member of and partner in law firms in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Huntington, West Virginia. He served as the elected Wayne County prosecutor from 1997 to 2008, when then-Governor Joe Manchin III appointed him to a new judicial seat in the Twenty-Fourth Judicial Circuit (Wayne County). He took office January 1, 2009, and was elected to that position in 2010 and re-elected in 2016.

Judge Young is one of seven judges in the Business Court Division and is a member of the West Virginia Judicial Association. He has been appointed several times to sit on the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia in cases in which a Justice was recused.

## **Judge Sarah E. Dixon, Sixth Family Court Circuit**

Judge Dixon was born and raised in Huntington, West Virginia. She graduated *Magna cum laude* from Miami University of Ohio with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in American literature. She obtained her law degree at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law.

Judge Dixon was appointed to the bench in the Sixth Family Court Circuit (Cabell County) on May 29, 2024, to serve the remainder of the term of Judge Jason Spears, who resigned. She was sworn in and took office on July 10, 2024, to a term that ends December 31, 2024. Judge Dixon was elected to the same seat on May 14, 2024.

Before taking office, Judge Dixon's legal career primarily focused on family law. She opened her own law office in January 2013. In November of 2014, she began working as a Cabell County assistant prosecuting attorney, focusing on child abuse and neglect cases. She later returned to private practice and consistently represented children in circuit and family court as well as adults in divorce, custody, domestic violence, guardianship, and grandparents' rights cases in West Virginia family courts. Judge Dixon was the adoption lawyer for hundreds of families.