

Parkersburg 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.

Lauren M. Hall

Lauren M. Hall is a Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel for the West Virginia Office of Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from West Virginia State University in 2015, and in 2018 she earned a Juris Doctorate from West Virginia University College of Law. Prior to joining the ODC in 2023, she worked as an Assistant Public Defender at the Kanawha County Public Defender Office. She is a member of the National Organization of Bar Counsel and is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, United States Southern District of West Virginia, and the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

Judge Robert A. Waters, Fourth Judicial Circuit

Judge Waters was born and raised in Parkersburg. He graduated from Parkersburg High School in 1973 and 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 the Fourth Judicial Circuit (Wood and Wirt Counties) in 1992 and re-elected in 2000, 2008, and 2016.

Judge Waters is a member of the West Virginia Judicial Association and the West Virginia Bar Association. He also attended the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada in Reno and received a Diploma of Judicial Skills from the American Judges Association.

Judge John D. Beane, Fourth Judicial Circuit

Judge Michael W. Asbury, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

Governor Jim Justice appointed Clay County attorney Michael W. Asbury, Jr., to the bench in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit (Braxton, Clay, Gilmer and Webster Counties) in August 2023.

Judge Asbury is a native of Clay County, a 2002 graduate of West Virginia State University and a 2005 graduate of West Virginia University College of Law. Before his appointment, he owned his own law practice in Clay County and served clients throughout the area.

Judge Anita Harold Ashley, Fifth Judicial Circuit

Judge Ashley was elected in May 2016 to a new seat in the Fifth Judicial Circuit (Calhoun, Jackson, Mason, and Roane Counties). Her term began January 1, 2017.

A Glenville native, she has a 1978 bachelor's degree in English, summa cum laude, from Glenville State College and a 1981 law degree from West Virginia University College of Law.

At the time of her election, Judge Ashley had been in private practice for 35 years. She was a Family Law Master from 1986 to 1989 and a Jackson County assistant prosecutor in 2002. During her tenure as a Family Law Master, Judge Ashley served on the Judicial Investigation Commission and on several select committees of the Supreme Court.

She was named one of "The Best Lawyers in America" by US News & World Report from 2012 to 2016 and one of "West Virginia's Best Attorneys" by The State Journal from 2012 to 2016. She was named a National Top 10 Attorney by the National Academy of Family Law Attorneys in 2014.

Judge Timothy L. Sweeny, Third Judicial Circuit

Judge Sweeney was raised in Pleasants County and graduated from St. Mary's High school in 1974. He received a 1978 bachelor's degree in business administration from West Virginia University and a 1981 law degree from West Virginia University College of Law.

He spent thirty years in private practice with law firms that include White & Sweeney, Sweeney & Ballard, the Sweeney Law Firm, and as general counsel for Pleasants County Bank. He was the elected prosecutor of Pleasants County from 1985 to 2010.

In December 2010 Governor Earl Ray Tomblin appointed him to the bench in the Third Judicial Circuit (Doddridge, Pleasants and Ritchie Counties). He was elected in 2012 and re-elected in 2016.

He is a member of the West Virginia Judicial Association. He is a former president of the West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Association and a former member of the West Virginia Trial Lawyers Association and the National College of District Attorneys.