

Bridgeport 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.

Anthony J. Majestro

Anthony J. Majestro is the Managing Member of Powell & Majestro, PLLC. West Virginia. Mr. Majestro is a *summa cum laude* graduate of West Virginia University (1986) and a *cum laude* graduate of Georgetown University Law Center (1989). Mr. Majestro is licensed to practice law in West Virginia and various federal district and appellate courts. Mr. Majestro was selected as a

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 A. Matish, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

Judge Matish is a native of Owings, Harrison County, and graduated from Shinnston High School. He has a 1975 bachelor's degree in business administration (magna cum laude) from West Virginia University and a 1978 law degree from West Virginia University College of Law.

He had a general law practice in Clarksburg from 1978 to 2000, concentrating in criminal defense work, civic litigation, family law, real estate, and bankruptcy.

He was elected to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit (Harrison County) in 2000 and re-elected in 2008 and 2016. He has been appointed several times to sit on the Supreme Court when a Justice has been recused from a case.

He is a member of the West Virginia Judicial Association, West Virginia State Bar, and the Harrison County Bar Association. He is past president and vice president of the Harrison County Bar Association, and a founder and past president of the West Virginia Society for Criminal Justice. He has taught at Salem International University and numerous continuing legal education classes at West Virginia University College of Law and at other locations in the state for lawyers, law enforcement personnel, and magistrates. He has served as a judge for the WVU College of Law Moot Court Board.

Judge Kurt Hall, Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit

Judge Hall is a native of Brunswick, Ohio. He has a bachelor's degree (1990) in Mining Engineering Technology from Fairmont State University and worked as a project engineer/Certified Mine Foreman's Assistant before earning a law degree from West Virginia University College of Law in 1995.

Judge Hall was elected to a new seat in the Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit (Lewis and Upshur Counties) in May 2016. He took office on January 1, 2017.

He was a law clerk in an Elkins law firm, a public defender in the Second Judicial Circuit (Marshall, Tyler, and Wetzel Counties) and then a Randolph County assistant prosecuting attorney. He was an assistant prosecuting attorney in Harrison County for eleven years before then-Governor Earl Ray Tomblin appointed him to the circuit bench in the Twenty-Sixth Judicial

Circuit (Lewis and Upshur Counties) in 2013. He served sixteen months but was unsuccessful in retaining the seat in the 2014 election. He went on to work as a Lewis County assistant prosecuting attorney.

Judge Shawn David Nines, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

Judge Shawn David Nines took the bench in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit (Barbour and Taylor Counties) on January 2, 2019. Governor Jim Justice appointed Nines on December 11, 2018, to the new judicial position created in the 2018 legislative session.

Before his appointment, Judge Nines had been an attorney with his own law practice in Grafton since 2007. He also has served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in either Taylor or Barbour County from 2007 until his appointment. He previously was City Attorney for Grafton, a lawyer for Huddleston Bolen LLP., and was a law clerk for Judge Moats from 2003 to 2005. He is a registered Patent Attorney with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Judge Nines has a 1998 bachelor's degree and a 2000 master's degree in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering from West Virginia University and a 2003 law degree from the University of Akron Law School.

Judge Timothy L. Sweeney, 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.

Judge Sweeney is president of the Pleasants County Library Board and volunteers with several other community organizations.