



## **Administrative Office of the Courts**

**John D. Minton, Jr.**  
Chief Justice of Kentucky

1001 Vandalay Drive  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
502-573-2350 or 800-928-2350  
[www.courts.ky.gov](http://www.courts.ky.gov)

**Laurie K. Dudgeon**  
Director

Contact: Jamie Neal, Public Information Specialist  
502-573-2350, ext. 50033, [jamieneal@kycourts.net](mailto:jamieneal@kycourts.net)

*For Immediate Release*

### **New district judges-elect participate in orientation Dec. 9-13 at Natural Bridge**

FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 14, 2018 – Kentucky’s new District Court judges have only a brief period to prepare to take the bench from Nov. 20, when the election results were certified, until they take office Jan. 7, 2019.

To help them transition from attorney to judge, the Kentucky District Judges Education Committee and the Administrative Office of the Courts provided a five-day New District Judges Orientation from Dec. 9-13 at Natural Bridge State Park in Slade, Ky.

All the new district judges participated in the orientation, which provided sessions on criminal cases, juvenile justice laws, pretrial and bail, evictions, probate, DUI cases, small claims cases, civil trials, mental health laws, and search warrants and the 4th Amendment. The judges also attended presentations on adult guardianship, traffic cases, Casey’s Law, and paternity and DNA cases.

District judges serve four-year terms and all of Kentucky’s district judges were up for election in 2018. There were 21 newly elected judges in the 2018 election cycle. District Court judges help handle the nearly 900,000 cases that flow through the court system each year.

“I commend these new judges for choosing to pursue the administration of justice, which is a high calling and a great responsibility,” Chief Justice of Kentucky John D. Minton Jr. said.

The new judges also benefited from spending time with veteran judges. Each judge-elect was paired with an experienced judge from a similar jurisdiction through the “Transitions: Lawyer-to-Judge Mentoring Program.” The program was created by the Kentucky Circuit and District Judges associations so that mentor judges can share their best practices and tips for success.

“It’s important for the new judges to get off to a smooth start and the orientation went a long way toward helping them prepare for the bench,” said District Court Judge John M. McCarty, president of the Kentucky District Judges Association. Judge McCarty serves as chief district judge for the 38th Judicial District, which is made up of Butler, Edmonson, Hancock and Ohio counties, and as a special Family Court judge for Daviess County.

The judges-elect also participated in an AOC Resource Fair on Nov. 30 in Frankfort to prepare for their new role. The AOC, which provides administrative support to justices, judges and circuit court clerks, assisted the judges-elect with personnel paperwork, computer equipment and stationery, and provided information on record keeping, resource materials and court programs.

### **District Court**

District Court judges handle juvenile matters, city and county ordinances, misdemeanors, violations, traffic offenses, probate of wills, arraignments, felony probable cause hearings, small claims involving \$2,500 or less, civil cases involving \$5,000 or less, voluntary and involuntary mental commitments and cases relating to domestic violence and abuse.

### **Administrative Office of the Courts**

The [AOC](#) is the operations arm for the state court system and supports the activities of nearly 3,300 court system employees and 404 elected justices, judges and circuit court clerks. As the fiscal agent for the state court system, the AOC also executes the Judicial Branch budget.

Most judges serve more than one county. By counties in each judicial district, the new District Court judges are:

#### **Anderson, Shelby and Spencer**

Linda Dixon Bullock

#### **Boone and Gallatin**

Marcia L. Thomas

#### **Bourbon, Scott and Woodford**

Sarah R. Hays

#### **Bracken, Fleming and Mason**

Kim Razor

#### **Breathitt, Powell and Wolfe**

Gary Salyers

#### **Breckinridge, Grayson and Meade**

Steven Crebessa

#### **Caldwell, Livingston, Lyon and Trigg**

Natalie White

#### **Christian**

John Lindsey Adams

#### **Clark and Madison**

Cole Adams Maier

**Fayette**

John Lindsay Tackett  
Lindsay Hughes Thurston

**Green, Marion, Taylor and Washington**

Mike Hall Jr.

**Henderson**

Leslie M. Newman

**Jefferson**

Kristina Garvey

Julie Kaelin

Lisa L. Langford

Tanisha A. Hickerson

Jessica A. Moore (Judge Moore is not counted among the 21 new district judges as she had been serving by appointment since July 2017 before being elected in 2018. She attended orientation because she had not previously had the opportunity to do so.)

**Johnson, Lawrence and Martin**

D. Brett Butcher

**Perry**

Cody Goehring

**Pike**

Tommy R. May

Robert F. Wright

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