



Supreme Court of Kentucky

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
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John D. Minton, Jr.
Chief Justice of Kentucky

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For Immediate Release



Laurance B. VanMeter was ceremonially sworn in Tuesday as a justice of the Supreme Court of Kentucky. Justice VanMeter's significant other, Lucy Ferguson, holds two family Bibles that have a long history in Justice VanMeter's family. To her right are Nancy T. Bishop and Shannon Arvin Bishop, who performed the official robing of Justice VanMeter at the ceremony. They are the widow and daughter, respectively, of the late William T. "Buddy" Bishop, an attorney who was Justice VanMeter's mentor and his official rober when he took the bench at the Court of Appeals, Circuit Court and District Court. Photo: Kentucky Creative Services

Justice VanMeter formally sworn in as Supreme Court justice

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 9, 2017 – [Justice Laurance B. VanMeter](#) was ceremonially sworn in as a justice of the Supreme Court of Kentucky on Tuesday in the Supreme Court Courtroom at the state Capitol in Frankfort. Chief Justice of Kentucky John D. Minton Jr. administered the oath of office to the court's newest justice, who was elected in November.

"My goal is merely to get it right, to apply the law based on the constitution and statutes of the United States and the commonwealth of Kentucky," Justice VanMeter said at the ceremony. "I will do my best."

Justice VanMeter took office in January and serves the 5th Appellate District in Central Kentucky. The district comprises Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Mercer, Scott and Woodford counties. He succeeds Justice Mary C. Noble, who retired in 2016.

Upon taking office, he became the third justice to have served at all four levels of the state's unified court system. He served 13 years as a Kentucky Court of Appeals judge before being elected to the Supreme Court. Prior to the Court of Appeals, he was a Fayette Circuit Court judge and Fayette District Court judge.

Supreme Court of Kentucky

The Supreme Court is the state court of last resort and the final interpreter of Kentucky law. [Seven justices \(bios\)](#) sit on the Supreme Court and all seven justices rule on appeals that come before the court. The justices are elected from seven appellate districts and serve eight-year terms. A chief justice, chosen for a four-year term by fellow justices, is the administrative head of the state's court system and is responsible for its operation. The Supreme Court may order a ruling or opinion to be published, which means that the ruling becomes the case law governing all similar cases in the future in Kentucky.

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