



John D. Minton, Jr.
Chief Justice of Kentucky

Kentucky State Capitol



June 27, 2008

The Formal Investiture Of
HONORABLE JOHN D. MINTON, JR.
AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Friday, June 27, 2008, 11:00 a.m.
Chambers of the Supreme Court of Kentucky
The Capitol, Frankfort, Kentucky

Agenda

Opening of Court

Susan Stokley Clary, Clerk, Supreme Court of Kentucky

Welcome

Joseph E. Lambert, Chief Justice of Kentucky

Invocation

The Reverend J. Richard Bard, Pastor
Broadway United Methodist Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Remarks

Honorable Steve Beshear, Governor of Kentucky

Honorable David L. Williams, President of the Senate

Honorable Jody Richards, Speaker of the House

Diane Thompson
Nelson County Circuit Court Clerk

Motion to Seat New Chief Justice

Honorable Kevin C. Brooks, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Comments

Chief Justice Lambert & Supreme Court Justices

**Chief Justice Lambert Administers the
Constitutional Oath of Office to Chief Justice-Elect John D. Minton, Jr.**

Response

Chief Justice Minton

Court is Adjourned

*Guests are invited to a reception on the second floor of the Capitol
immediately following the ceremony.*

John D. Minton, Jr.

John Dean Minton, Jr., ran unopposed in November 2006 in the 14-county 2nd Supreme Court District, and he was elected at that time to a full eight-year term on the Supreme Court of Kentucky. The preceding July, then-Governor Ernie Fletcher had appointed Justice Minton to fill the unexpired term on the Supreme Court created when Justice William S. Cooper retired June 30, 2006.

Before joining the Supreme Court, Justice Minton had been a judge on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, the state's intermediate appellate court, since November 2003.

Justice Minton came to the appellate bench from the trial court. He was judge of the Warren Circuit Court from 1992 to 2003. In addition to his trial court duties, he also served by special appointment of the late Chief Justice Robert F. Stephens and Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert as the Chief Regional Judge of the Green River Region, an administrative post assisting the Chief Justice with assigning special judges in a 21-county area of southcentral Kentucky.

While on the Circuit Court bench, Justice Minton was recognized for his leadership in forming Warren County Drug Court and for his commitment to law-related education programs. In 2003, the Kentucky Bar Association honored him with its Outstanding Judge Award. Justice Minton was actively involved in continuing judicial education as a longtime member of the Education Committee of the Kentucky Circuit Judges Association.

Prior to his election to the circuit bench, Justice Minton engaged in the private practice of law in Bowling Green, Kentucky, for more than 15 years. He graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1977, and was admitted to the Kentucky bar that same year.

Justice Minton earned his bachelor's degree with honors from Western Kentucky University in 1974. He was a 1970 graduate of Western's University High School.

At a young age, Justice Minton moved with his parents from Cadiz, Kentucky, to Bowling Green, where he grew up and where he continues to reside. He is married to Susan Page Minton, a Bowling Green native. The Mintons have two teenage children, a daughter, Page Sullivan Minton, and a son, John D. Minton, III.

Justice Minton is a lifelong member of Broadway United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, and has served in several lay leadership positions in The United Methodist Church in Kentucky and nationally. He is also a member and past president of the Bowling Green Rotary Club.

Justice Minton is the son of Dr. and Mrs. John D. Minton, who live in Bowling Green. Dr. Minton retired from Western Kentucky University, having served that institution for many years as a history professor, administrator, and its fifth president.

Comments From Professional Colleagues

John Stanley Palmore, Chief Justice of Kentucky, 1977-1982

“I am proud of Justice Minton. I have long known him and his father. As a fellow Bowling Green boy, I believe this is a great tribute to the Warren County Bar Association. Justice Minton is a wonderful person and will be a wonderful Chief Justice.”

Sara Walter Combs, Chief Judge, Kentucky Court of Appeals

“It was an unfailing pleasure to work with John Minton at the Court of Appeals before he joined the Supreme Court. His integrity, good will, intelligence and gentle manner all contribute to make him an ideal choice to lead the Court of Justice.”

Diane Thompson, Nelson County Circuit Court Clerk

“I have had the honor of working with Justice Minton for many years. His integrity and knowledge of all levels of our court system are unprecedented. I am confident that he will provide tremendous support to circuit court clerks because he understands the critical function of our office. The citizens of our Commonwealth will truly benefit from Justice Minton being elected our new Chief Justice.”

Charles E. English, Attorney at Law English, Lucas, Priest & Owsley LLP, Bowling Green

“I have known Justice Minton for a long time. He is bright, kind and has a good judicial temperament. I believe he will make an excellent Chief Justice.”

SUPREME COURT OF KENTUCKY

The Supreme Court of Kentucky is the state’s highest court. The seven justices are elected from seven appellate court districts and serve eight-year terms. The Kentucky Constitution provides that the Supreme Court justices elect one of their fellow justices to serve as chief justice for a term of four years.

As executive head of the statewide judicial system, the Chief Justice oversees the Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort and the 4,000 statewide employees of the Kentucky Court of Justice, including elected justices, judges and circuit court clerks. The Chief Justice proposes a biennial budget to the General Assembly and executes the Judicial Branch budget.

In Appreciation

Thank you to the Kentucky Bar Association
for contributing to the reception
and to WKYU-PBS at Western Kentucky University
for providing videography services.

