



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 13, 2025, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the House Committee on Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 13, 2025, 9:00 AM in Room 410M.

Members present: Delegates Akers, Butler, Ferrell, Flanigan, Fluharty, Funkhouser, Hansen, Heckert, Hillenbrand, Holstein, Hornby, Jennings, Kelly, D., Kimble, Kump, Mallow, Marple, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Shamblin, Ward, B., Zatezalo

Members absent: Delegates Martin

A roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

As the next order of business, Chairman Akers recognized Ms. Cindy Largent-Hill, Director, Supreme Court of Appeals, Division of Children's Services, for purposes of addressing the committee. Ms. Largent-Hill provided remarks to the committee regarding abuse and neglect proceedings within the West Virginia judicial system. Questions and discussion from the committee members followed.

As the next order of business, Chairman Akers recognized Ms. Stacey Fragile, Chief Public Defender, Raleigh County Public Defender Corporation, for purposes of addressing the committee. Ms. Fragile provided remarks to the committee regarding the roles of lawyers and guardians ad litem in abuse and neglect proceedings. Questions and discussion from the committee members followed.

As the next order of business, Chairman Akers recognized Judge Anita Harold Ashley, Fifth Judicial Circuit, for purposes of addressing the committee. Judge Ashley provided remarks to the committee regarding the needs and challenges facing the judicial system in respect to abuse and neglect cases. Questions and discussion from the committee members followed.

On Motion of Delegate Maynor the committee adjourned.

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Delegate JB Akers

Chairman

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Mr. Daniel Osborne

Senior Clerk