

**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
CIRCUIT JUDGE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Because all responses are confidential, and will be used only for the construction of statistical summaries of responses, we ask that you please do not identify yourself on this form.

1. How many years have you served as a judge? _____ years
2. How many years have you practiced law? _____ years
3. What occupation did you hold immediately prior to your current judgeship? (CHECK ONE)
 - Magistrate
 - Prosecuting attorney's office
 - Other elected public official (specify) _____
 - Other civil service position (specify agency) _____
 - Other (specify) _____
 - Private legal practice
 - Federal/local government lawyer

If private legal practice, what was your specialization?

Criminal Civil No specialization
4. Does your court have any of the following work cycles or procedures?

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Months or weeks set aside as jury or non-jury terms
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Months or weeks set aside as criminal or civil terms
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Week(s) set aside exclusively for settlement conferences
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Days(s) of the week (M-F) set aside to hear certain types of proceedings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Active use of commissioners, referees, arbiters, pro-tem judges, etc.
5. Have you ever presided outside of your circuit? yes no If yes, how often? _____ times
6. Have you served as a judge of a Business Court Division? yes no
7. In civil settlement conferences, which one of the following roles do you **most commonly** assume?
 - Intervene aggressively -- through the use of direct pressure.
 - Intervene subtly -- through the use of cues or suggestions.
 - Do not intervene -- allow the opposing counsel to try to reach a settlement on their own.
 - Use another judge or third party to conduct settlement efforts.
 - Do not find settlement conferences to be appropriate.
 - Other
8. What kind of law clerk services, if any, do you have in your current assignment? (CHECK ONE)
 - More than one full-time law clerk
 - One full-time law clerk
 - More than one part-time law clerk
 - One part-time or temporary law clerk
 - One (or more) law clerk(s) shared with other judges
 - None

9. Below, we ask for information on what your work weeks are typically like. Write, in the space provided, the amount of time you spend (if any) during a *typical week* on the activities listed which you encounter in your current assignment. Please read the list of potential activities before completing this section.

Hours per week

- ____ Reading case files and materials
- ____ Keeping up with the law: reading reporters, statutes, court rules, journals, books, etc.
- ____ Preparing/writing decisions, judgments, orders
- ____ General administrative work and correspondence
- ____ Civil settlement conferences
- ____ Case-related conferences with attorneys *not related* to plea or settlement
- ____ Presiding at non-jury trial
- ____ Presiding at hearings about child abuse and neglect
- ____ Presiding at jury trial
- ____ Civil calendar: hearing motions, defaults, etc.
- ____ Criminal calendar: warrant requests, arraignments, bail, allocutions, sentence hearings, etc.
- ____ Considering appeals from magistrate court
- ____ Considering appeals from family court
- ____ Considering appeals from administrative agencies
- ____ Travel time: circuit-riding, etc.

Other (specify: _____)

10. In the cases considered before you during the past month approximately how many *different attorneys* appeared before you?

- () 1 to 10 (.) 11 to 20 () 21- to 30 () 31 to 40 () more than 41

11. On balance, how would you rate the quality of the *practicing bar* in your circuit?

	excellent	above average	average	below average	poor	no basis for judgment
Case preparation & management skills	()	()	()	()	()	()
Settlement skills	()	()	()	()	()	()
Trial skills	()	()	()	()	()	()

12. How do rate the quality of the legal representation *commonly provided* for ***indigent criminal*** defendants in your court?
 excellent () above average () average () poor () no basis for judgment ()
13. How do rate the quality of the legal representation commonly provided ***for indigent civil*** defendants in your court?
 excellent () above average () average () poor () no basis for judgment ()
14. The media has made much of an explosion of “frivolous litigation.” Do you agree with this assessment?
 () Yes, there has been an explosion of frivolous litigation.
 () I have witnessed a slight increase in frivolous litigation.
 () No, there has not been an explosion of frivolous litigation.
15. Is your *local community* significantly involved in court matters through any of the following ways?
- | Yes | No | |
|-----|-----|---|
| () | () | Extensive newspaper or television coverage of courts |
| () | () | Frequent "court watch" projects by citizens |
| () | () | Public school class visits to the court |
| () | () | Local college or university research projects on courts or judicial personnel |
| () | () | Hotly-contested elections for local judgeships |
| () | | Other (specify) _____ |
16. Since becoming a judge have you undertaken any judicial education offered by the following programs?
 () The National Judicial College
 () Other national program (specify) _____
 () no judicial education outside of the state
18. What is your present age? _____
19. What is your gender? () Male () Female
20. Which of the following applies to you? () Black () Hispanic () White () Asian
21. Where did you attend law school? () West Va. Univ. () other law school (specify) _____
22. During your last election campaign, how much time per *week* did you spend on average on your campaign?
 () 0-2 hrs. () 3-5 hrs. () 6-8 hrs. () 9 hrs. or more