

Supreme Court LAWS Program Teaches State High School Students About Judicial System

Article and photograph contributed by Michelle Mensore of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

Reaching out and educating students and other members of the public about the court system is a very

important part of the work done by the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. One way the State's highest court has educated high school students is through a program called LAWS, an acronym for Legal Advancement for West Virginia Students.

believe that educating students about the judicial branch of government will help them become well-informed and patriotic adult citizens," Davis said. As part of LAWS, high school students, in their own or nearby communities, study the judicial system and real Supreme Court cases prior to the Court hearing the cases. Students are provided with study materials and classroom instruction in advance so that they understand the issues in the case they will hear, and how the case reached the West Virginia Supreme Court. Teachers receive notebooks of materials during a professional development session conducted by local circuit judges and Supreme Court staff. Using the materials provided to them by the Court, teachers include judicial education in their curricula before and after students attend the oral argument. Volunteer lawyers and judges also go into classrooms to prepare students.



Students from Brooke, Hancock, and Ohio Counties listen intently as they hear arguments presented in a Supreme Court case as part of their participation in the Court's LAWS Program.

Following the oral argument before the Supreme Court in a local courtroom, the students meet for a "debriefing" with the attorneys who argued the case. They also have an opportunity to meet informally with the Court during a luncheon which is sponsored by the community hosting LAWS. The Court makes LAWS cases a priority and issues opinions before the end of school so the students can discuss them in class.

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The development of the annual LAWS program began during Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis' first term as chief justice in 1998. The Supreme Court has educated over 1,400 West Virginia students about the judicial branch of government through LAWS since the program's first session in 1999. "The Supreme Court is committed to LAWS because we

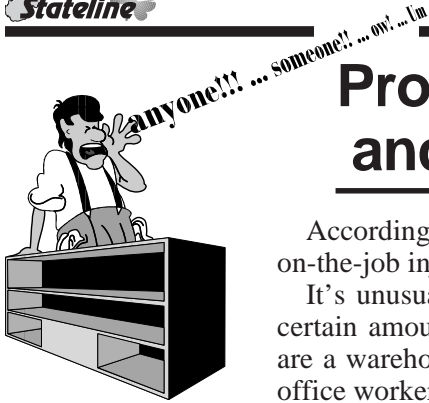
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SPRING
*Arrives
at the
West Virginia
Governor's
Mansion*



[See the colors on the web at www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/Stline.htm](http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/Stline.htm)

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Protect Your Hands and Fingers

According to the National Safety Council, most on-the-job injuries involve the hands and fingers.

It's unusual to find a job that doesn't include a certain amount of material handling. Whether you are a warehouse person, a machine operator, or an office worker, you handle material either frequently

or occasionally – and that's when your hands and fingers are at risk.

Here are some guidelines to follow which can help you protect your hands and fingers:

- ☞ Be aware of where your hands are when moving equipment or supplies.
- ☞ Know your equipment and keep fingers away from pinch points. Also, exercise caution when working with machinery such as shredders or paper cutters.
- ☞ Inspect materials for slivers, jagged or sharp edges, burrs, or rough or slippery surfaces.
- ☞ Wear the right kind of gloves for the task, and use other appropriate items such as tongs or handles.
- ☞ Keep hands away from the ends of long objects like furniture, boards, or pipes.
- ☞ Keep hands free of oil and grease, and wipe off materials that are wet, greasy, or dirty before handling them.
- ☞ Make sure hands are clear before setting down heavy cartons, furniture, or equipment.
- ☞ Get first aid for small injuries so they don't become worse or infected.

If you suffer an injury at work, report it to your supervisor immediately


Wise Names Canfield Interim Director of Communications

Governor Bob Wise has appointed Jack Canfield of Charleston as Interim Director of Communications for the Governor's Office.

Canfield, who served as press secretary for former Governor Hulett C. Smith and as director of communications for former Governor Jay Rockefeller, joins the administration March 25.

"I'm pleased to be able to serve in the Wise Administration, as I have great respect for the Governor. My previous experiences in State government all were enjoyable, and I look forward to this opportunity to work again for the people of West Virginia."

Canfield is taking a leave of absence from his position as senior consultant to RMS Research, a full-service research firm based in Charleston. Canfield is also a former Employment Security commissioner, a former member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, a former member of the State Personnel Board, and for 15 years, was with Charleston Area Medical Center as vice president of corporate development.



**11th Annual
Public Employees
Golf Tourney**

May 20

All State government employees are invited to play in the 11th Annual WV Public Employees Golf Tournament. It will be held at Pipestem State Park on Monday, May 20, beginning at 10 A.M. with a shotgun start.

A \$40 fee includes greens fee, cart, and cookout after the tournament. Discount lodging is available. For information or to register, call Ed Henderson at 558-2764 or e-mail him at ehender@dnr.state.wv.us.

Prizes Will Be Award!!



SCU works for SECURITY for YOU!

THE STATE CREDIT UNION

558-0566 * 558-0513

The State Credit Union may have the loan you need. Did you know that:

- * Vacation loans begin April 1 and run up through August 31 - you can borrow up to \$2000 for as low as 9.99% APR.
- * New car loans are as low as 5.95% APR for 60 months. They'll also help you 'decipher' the deal you're getting. Call with the details and they'll help you determine if the price/value you're getting for your new car or trade-in is reasonable.
- * A home equity loan (at 6.75% for 10 years or 7.25% for 15 years) could solve your needs for a new roof, an extra room, or maybe just some bill consolidation.

Women and Money Conference Apr. 26

The West Virginia Treasurer's Office is presenting a financial conference for women at the Charleston Civic Center on April 26, 2002.

Guest speaker Dee Lee of the Harvard Financial Educators make a presentation she calls Let's Talk Money. Other focus workshops will include:

Getting Out of Debt

Getting Started in Investing

Plan for a Relaxing Retirement

Starting Over Alone

Estate Planning

Investing for Your Future

Buying Real Estate

In addition, participants can schedule individual appointments with financial planners.

Another great feature about the conference? **ADMISSION IS FREE!**

For more information, call the State Treasurer's Office at 558-5000 or 1-800-422-7498.

State Travel Regulations Available Online

Most State jobs don't require travel, but for some it does, whether it's only on an occasional basis or as a matter of routine. If your job requires you to travel at all, you need to know the regulations, and it would be helpful to have them available anytime you need them – and they are. You can view them online at:

<http://www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/Travel/TMRegs.htm>

Choose Computer Passwords Wisely

Choosing a password for your computer and internet websites is an important decision. Hackers are everywhere, and you will, at some time, get hacked. Just how soon depends on what password you choose.

If you use the same password for all your internet sites, or if your password is a simple word, you could soon regret it. For example, a password that is a single word found in the dictionary will almost certainly be cracked on many internet service providers within a year. Why is that such a big deal? The consequences can range from embarrassing (for instance, when the wares of a less than reputable type are hawked using YOUR e-mail address) to expensive (when they change things on your account or access personal information).



The best password is a combination of letters and numbers. Never use names specific to you, but if you do, add an obscure number combination to make it more unique. Never use your birthdate or any other number or word that goes on a form you fill out.

Don't be afraid to change passwords frequently, especially if you suspect you've been hacked, and NEVER automatically store passwords on your computer or at an internet log-in site.

What Your Password Says About You ...

Professors at the City University in London have identified 4 password genres: family-oriented, fans, fantasists, and cryptics.

- % Family-oriented passwords accounted for nearly half those surveyed. People select their own names, nicknames, or the names of their kids, partners, pets, or friends. They also choose their birthdays.
- & One-third of those surveyed fell in the "fans" category - choosing names of athletes, entertainers, or teams. Most of the people in this category were young.
- "Fantasists" made up 11% and used such words as *stud* or *goddess* - of the 11% in this category, the split was 73% male and 37% female.
- (Security-conscious "cryptics" used unintelligible words, letters, numbers, and symbols.



Public Service Recognition Week September 9-13, 2002

The West Virginia celebration of Public Service Recognition Week for 2002 will be held the week of September 9 through 13.

Work on the celebration planning will begin sometime in April. Volunteers are needed to work on several committees. If you're interested in helping, call or e-mail Jane Fouty at 558-3950, ext. 206 or jfouty@gwmail.state.wv.us

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“LAWS is a partnership between the court system, the bar association, the schools, and the community. Without the cooperation of each partner, LAWS would not be possible. All partners work toward one goal – educating students,” said Davis.

This year’s LAWS session, which was held in Wheeling at the Ohio County Courthouse on February 26 had 280 participants from Brooke, Hancock, and Ohio Counties. As in the past, the spirit of cooperation present made it a great success. For the first time, students from other areas of the State could watch the LAWS arguments over the Supreme Court website at www.state.wv.us/wvsca. Also available from the website are the educational materials for the program.

For more information about the LAWS Program, call Michelle Mensore, Information Services Director, at 304/558-0145 or send her an e-mail at mensom@mail.wvnet.edu.

CPRB Needs Your Help to Locate Former Employees



Edited from an article on The West Virginia State Treasurer's website.

The State Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB) has compiled a list of individuals who are due a monetary distribution from either the West Virginia Teachers Retirement System or the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System. These individuals (or their beneficiaries) are due the distribution because the member ceased employment, did not apply for benefits, and is now either deceased or over age 70½.

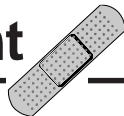
CPRB has conducted an exhaustive search to locate these former employees. Locating them is important in order to satisfy Federal and State laws pertaining to distributions from qualified retirement plans.

An alphabetical list of these individuals (in order by last name) is available online at the State Treasurer’s website (www.wvtreasury.com/retirement.html). Select from the alphabetical ranges provided to view it.

If you or someone you know is on the list, please contact the West Virginia Consolidated Public Retirement Board at:

State of West Virginia	Phone: 304/558-6658 or
Consolidated Public Retirement Board	1-800-654-4406 (in WV)
Attn: Tanya Ferguson	
90 MacCorkle Avenue SW, Suite 201B	E-mail: tferguson@wvretirement.com
South Charleston, West Virginia 25303	

News From the Medical Front



Doctors at the Harvard School of Public Health say new studies show the rise in juvenile diabetes is **NOT** related to immunizations, nor are children more prone to infectious diseases.

Today, children are immunized against 11 diseases and some 25% of parents fear this weakens their immune systems. Not so according to the studies. The doctors also state that the vaccines used today are much safer than those from the 1980s.

Pencil In ...

A big round of applause and congratulations to Sgt. Maj. Ray Dillon and his **Capital High School Junior ROTC drill team for winning the honor of best Junior ROTC Program in the country!!** The team earned the national championship at a competition in Landover, MD this month when they outperformed and outmaneuvered teams from 48 other states. State employees have been privileged to watch Capital on several occasions when they provide color guard services for Public Service Recognition Week events.



File photo of color guard from May 2000

Correction to the Board of Risk and Insurance Management **phone numbers** appearing in January’s *Pencil In* column. Phone is **766-2646**; fax is **766-2653**.



Ugh! **Set your clocks AHEAD** an hour before going to bed on April 6.