

COURT OF APPEALS OF VIRGINIA

CHIEF JUDGE

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JUDGES

ROBERT J. HUMPHREYS

WILLIAM G. PETTY

RANDOLPH A. BEALES

ROSSIE D. ALSTON, JR.

TERESA M. CHAFIN

MARLA GRAFF DECKER

MARY GRACE O'BRIEN

WESLEY G. RUSSELL, JR.

RICHARD Y. ATLEE, JR.

MARY B. MALVEAUX



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SENIOR JUDGES

ROSEMARIE ANNUNZIATA

JEAN HARRISON CLEMENTS

JAMES W. HALEY, JR.

ROBERT P. FRANK

CLERK

CYNTHIA L. MCCOY

REPORTER

RONALD J. BACIGAL

DAVID H. SPRATT

CHIEF STAFF ATTORNEY

ALICE T. ARMSTRONG

Press Release – December 3, 2018

The Court of Appeals of Virginia Announces the Election of the Honorable Marla Graff Decker as Chief Judge-Elect

RICHMOND - On November 27, 2018, the Judges of the Court of Appeals of Virginia elected Judge Marla Graff Decker as Chief Judge-elect. She will succeed Chief Judge Glen A. Huff. Chief Judge-elect Decker will assume her duties as Chief Judge on January 1, 2019. The chief judge of the Court of Appeals is elected by a majority vote of the judges of the Court of Appeals to serve a term of four years.

Chief Judge-elect Decker was appointed by the Governor to the Court of Appeals of Virginia on November 1, 2013, and elected by the Virginia General Assembly to an eight-year term in January of 2014. Prior to becoming a judge on the Court of Appeals, she served as the Secretary of Public Safety for the Commonwealth. Chief Judge-elect Decker began her legal career in 1983 in the Criminal Litigation Section of the Office of the Attorney General, where she appeared in state and federal courts, handling criminal appeals and habeas corpus litigation. She later served as Section Chief of the Special Prosecutions Section and then as Deputy Attorney General of the Public Safety and Enforcement Division.

Chief Judge-elect Decker received her undergraduate degree from Gettysburg College and her Juris Doctor from the University of Richmond School of Law, where she serves as an evening adjunct professor. She is also a life member of Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad.

About the Court of Appeals of Virginia: The Court of Appeals of Virginia provides appellate review of final decisions of the circuit courts in domestic relations matters, appeals from decisions of administrative agencies, traffic infractions and criminal cases, except where a sentence of death has been imposed. It also hears appeals of final decisions of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission. While appeals of criminal and traffic cases, final decisions on applications for concealed weapons permits, and certain preliminary rulings in felony cases are presented by a petition for appeal, all other appeals to the Court of Appeals are a matter of right. The Court of Appeals has original jurisdiction to issue writs of mandamus, prohibition, and habeas corpus in any case over which the court would have appellate jurisdiction, and writs of actual innocence (based on non-biological evidence).

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