

COURT OF APPEALS OF VIRGINIA

CHIEF JUDGE

MARLA GRAFF DECKER

JUDGES

ROBERT J. HUMPHREYS

RANDOLPH A. BEALES

GLEN A. HUFF

MARY GRACE O'BRIEN

RICHARD Y. ATLEE, JR.

MARY B. MALVEAUX

CLIFFORD L. ATHEY, JR.

JUNIUS P. FULTON, III

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JUDGES

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STUART A. RAPHAEL

LISA M. LORISH

DOMINIQUE A. CALLINS

KIMBERLEY SLAYTON WHITE

SENIOR JUDGES

ROSEMARIE ANNUNZIATA

JEAN HARRISON CLEMENTS

JAMES W. HALEY, JR.

WILLIAM G. PETTY

Press Release – January 18, 2023

The Court of Appeals of Virginia Announces the Re-election of the Honorable Marla Graff Decker as Chief Judge

RICHMOND –The Judges of the Court of Appeals of Virginia unanimously elected Chief Judge Marla Graff Decker to a second four-year term as Chief Judge, which commenced on January 1, 2023. The chief judge of the Court of Appeals is elected by a majority vote of the seventeen judges of the Court of Appeals to serve a term of four years.

Chief Judge Decker was appointed by the Governor to the Court of Appeals of Virginia on November 1, 2013, elected by the Virginia General Assembly to an eight-year term in January of 2014 and reelected to a second eight-year term on the Court in January of 2022.

Chief Judge Decker received her undergraduate degree from Gettysburg College and her Juris Doctor from the University of Richmond School of Law.

About the Court of Appeals of Virginia: In 2021 the Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation that expanded the Court of Appeals and made it the intermediate appellate court for all criminal and the vast majority of civil cases in the Commonwealth. Beginning January 1, 2022, most appeals to the Court of Appeals are a matter of right. The Commonwealth must petition the Court of Appeals if it wishes to appeal a decision in a criminal case pursuant to Virginia Code § 19.2-398. The Court of Appeals also has jurisdiction to hear certain interlocutory appeals through a discretionary petition process. The Court has original jurisdiction to issue writs of mandamus, prohibition, and habeas corpus in any case over which the Court would have appellate jurisdiction. It also has jurisdiction in writs of actual innocence based on non-biological evidence. The decisions of the Court of Appeals are final in pre-trial Commonwealth's appeals, appeals involving involuntary treatment of prisoners, and appeals involving denial of a concealed handgun permit. In pre-trial Commonwealth's appeals, however, if a defendant is convicted, he or she may seek review of the pre-trial appeal ruling on direct appeal. All other decisions of the Court of Appeals are appealable to the Supreme Court.

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