

Judicial Branch Town Hall

Monday • April 20, 2020 • Noon

Join us to hear from Kansas Appellate Judges, who will discuss how the courts are managing its docket. Also, hear from the Supreme Court's Chief Counsel on the effects of House Sub for SB 102 has on the courts. Attendees will also get an IT and court personnel update from members of the Office of Judicial Administration.

- **Justice Evelyn Wilson, *Kansas Supreme Court***
- Chief Judge Arnold-Burger, *Kansas Court of Appeals*
- Martha Coffman, *General Counsel*
- Kelly O'Brien, *OJA Director of IT*
- Allyson Christman, *OJA Human Resources*

Presenters

Justice Evelyn Wilson, *Justice, Kansas Supreme Court*

Evelyn Zabel Wilson is a native of Smith Center, Kansas. She received an undergraduate degree in business/economics from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, and a law degree from Washburn University School of Law. Before her appointment to the court, she was a district judge and then chief judge of the 3rd Judicial District, which is Shawnee County. She was a private practice lawyer for 19 years. She was appointed to the bench by Gov. Laur Kelly in 2020.

Chief Judge Karen Arnold-Burger, *Kansas Court of Appeals*

Chief Judge Karen Arnold-Burger is a fourth-generation Kansan born in Kansas City, Kansas. She attended Johnson County Community College and the University of Kansas for her undergraduate degrees and earned a law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law. She worked as a municipal and federal prosecutor and then as a municipal judge before being named to the Kansas Court of Appeals. She became chief judge in 2017.

Martha Coffman, *General Counsel, Kansas Supreme Court*

Coffman is general counsel for the Kansas Supreme Court's Office of Judicial Administration, a position she's held since 2012. She previously was chief advisory counsel to the Kansas Corporation Commission and director of the Kansas Court of Appeals central research staff. Coffman was in private practice in Lawrence for several years, was a research attorney for Kansas Supreme Court Justice Donald Allegrucci and was law clerk for U.S. District Judge Earl E. O'Connor. She received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Kansas and a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh.

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Kelly O'Brien, *Director of Information Technology, Office of Judicial Administration*

O'Brien is chief information technical officer for the Kansas judicial branch, a position he's held for 17 years. He has overseen implementation of multiple statewide systems and is currently part of the team implementing the Kansas Supreme Court's centralized case management system. He has nearly 30 years of experience leading technical teams and managing technical projects. He previously was the network administrator for the City of Topeka, where he managed and maintained the citywide network.

Allyson Christman, *Director of Personnel, Office of Judicial Administration*

Christman is director of personnel for the Kansas Supreme Court's Office of Judicial Administration. She previously was senior employee relations manager for Seattle-based Amazon and held several human relations positions at Target Corp. She also worked for the Kansas Division of Workers Compensation, the Kansas Department of Administration, and the Kansas Highway Patrol, where she was chief legal counsel. Christman received a bachelor's degree in political science and history from Fort Hays State University and a law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law.

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