



**Honorary Chair**

Larry V. Starcher, Senior  
Justice, West Virginia  
Supreme Court of Appeals

**Co-Directors**

Tom Rodd, Esq.  
Katherine Dooley, Esq.

**Administrator**

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Aimee Duncan  
Nick Eaton

## **Historical Drama Debuts in Morgantown**

### **Play Traces Formation of State; Cast Includes Local Leaders**

Morgantown, W.Va. -- Senior Supreme Court Justice Larry Starcher, Monongalia County Circuit Judge Russell Clawges, and a large cast of local leaders, actors, and musicians will perform in an all-ages historical drama on Wednesday, April 6, 2011, at 7:30 p.m., at the Erickson Alumni Center in Morgantown.

"A New Home for Liberty" follows the lives of two young West Virginians – one white and one African American – before, during, and after the Civil War. Local musicians and singers will perform music of the era. Admission and parking is free, and reservations are not necessary.

The Morgantown performance of "A New Home for Liberty" will be the world premiere of the new play, which will be presented across the State as part of the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Sesquicentennial) of the creation of the State of West Virginia.

"A New Home for Liberty" is an exciting dramatic story," said program author and J.R. Clifford Project co-director Tom Rodd. "One hundred and fifty years ago, brave Mountaineers, black and white, risked their lives and fortunes to create a new home for liberty in the United States -- the State of West Virginia. We will present the dramatic and exciting stories of famous state-makers and ordinary citizens -- as the Civil War raged around them, and as the West Virginia star was added to 'Old Glory.'"

Prominent West Virginia historians John Stealey and John Alexander Williams will also be part of the program. "This will be a unique chance to hear from these two great scholars in an informal setting," Rodd said. "People will learn things about West Virginia's history that they never knew. We guarantee a good time -- come one, come all!"

The West Virginia University College of Law and the J. R. Clifford Project are program co-sponsors. The West Virginia Humanities Council, local sponsors, and Chesapeake Energy are providing financial support.

Senior Justice Starcher will portray West Virginia "statemaker" Granville Hall. Circuit Judge Clawges will portray President Abraham Lincoln. Other members of the "New Home for Liberty" cast include Morgantown Mayor Bill Byrne, former West Virginia Division of Personnel head Otis Cox, attorneys Brian McCallister, Katherine Dooley, and Kathy Abate, WVU law professor Atiba Ellis, WVU Student Organizations Program Coordinator Jacqueline Dooley, Main Street Morgantown Director Terri Cutright, and WVU interim assistant vice president of Student Affairs Mike Ellington

Remembering the past....  
To Inspire the Future

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Hillary Phillips of the Morgantown Theatre Company is assisting in the production; veterans of the MTC participating in the program include Jeron Amoroso, Olivia Grunau, and Rachel Moore.

Musicians Keith McManus and Cathy McConnell and friends will re-enact an abolitionist singing group, and local singer Al Anderson will perform. A step dance group from the WVU National Pan-Hellenic Council and the gospel choir Umajah Voices of Joy will also perform, along with a youth group re-enacting the Sixth Regiment United States Colored Troops Drum Corps from Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Pittsburgh.

Earlier on the same day, Wednesday, April 6, at noon, the historian Dr. John Alexander Williams will speak at the WVU College of Law in a program sponsored by the College's Entrepreneurship Law Clinic. A luncheon and panel discussion will follow.

Since 2004, the J.R. Clifford Project, a program of the nonprofit Friends of Blackwater, has celebrated West Virginia's civil rights heritage. The Project is named for West Virginia's first African American lawyer, John Robert Clifford (1848-1933). To commemorate the Sesquicentennial of West Virginia's Statehood, the J.R. Clifford Project is partnering with educators, churches, and community groups to present programs that explore how issues of race and justice helped form West Virginia. The programs celebrate the human courage and spirit that founded the Mountain State.

For more information on the program at the Erickson Center:

Larry Starcher - 304-541-3304 - [Larry.Starcher@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Larry.Starcher@mail.wvu.edu)

Tom Rodd - 304-541-4494 - [thomasrodd@hotmail.com](mailto:thomasrodd@hotmail.com)

Noah Barnes - 304-680-4288 - [nbarnes006@gmail.com](mailto:nbarnes006@gmail.com)

Aimee Duncan - [J.R. Clifford Project](http://www.jrclifford.org), 501 Elizabeth Street, Charleston WV 25311  
304-345-7663 - [admin@jrclifford.org](mailto:admin@jrclifford.org)

On the College of Law program

Patricia H. Lee - 304-293-6838 [elc@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:elc@mail.wvu.edu)