John D. Minton Jr. of Bowling Green, Ky., was elected to the Kentucky Supreme Court in 2006 and was sworn in as Kentucky’s fifth chief justice in 2008. His fellow justices elected him as chief justice for a second term that began in June 2012.

Under his administration, the Supreme Court adopted the state’s first uniform family law rules and formed the Kentucky Access to Justice Commission to improve access to civil legal aid for the poor. As a member of the Task Force on the Penal Code and Controlled Substances Act, Minton joined forces with the Executive and Legislative branches to curb prison costs and improve public safety. He supports transparent government and in 2009 led the Judicial Branch in posting its financial information on a public website shared with the Executive Branch.

Minton is steering the Judicial Branch through Kentucky’s worst economic downturn in decades by creating efficiencies at all four levels of the court system.

As head of the Judicial Branch, he is committed to investing in the people who operate the court system and in the technology that can help Kentucky courts reduce costs and deliver better service. He formed the Technology Governance Committee to guide efforts to replace the outdated court case management system with one that will allow e-filing and innovative electronic services. He also created a Compensation Commission to determine how to make the Judicial Branch’s salary structure more fair and competitive with the other branches of state government.

Minton was in private practice for 15 years before serving as a circuit judge from 1992 to 2003 and a Kentucky Court of Appeals judge from 2003 to 2006. He holds degrees from Western Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky College of Law.

He serves on the boards of the Conference of Chief Justices and the Council of State Governments. In 2003, the Kentucky Bar Association honored him with its Outstanding Judge Award. He was named Distinguished Jurist in 2012 by the UK College of Law Alumni Association.

He is married to Susan Page Minton, a Bowling Green, Ky., native, and they have two children, Page and John.

Chief Justice Minton is the son of Betty Redick Minton and the late Dr. John D. Minton, who retired from Western Kentucky University after serving for many years as a history professor, administrator and its fifth president.