

Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers
Judges Annual Meeting
June 14, 2013

Good morning. As is the practice with every annual meeting, the Chief Court Administrator will follow my remarks to discuss what has happened over the past year. That portion and the proposed rules changes as explained by Justice Eveleigh really are the heavy lifting portion of this meeting.

I do have news to share with you this morning, however, regarding the positions of Chief Court Administrator and Deputy Chief Court Administrator.

As many of you know, Judge Quinn will be retiring as Chief Court Administrator after six years in the job. Her retirement is effective October 1st, and I think it is fair to say that Barbara has earned some rest and relaxation for all of the hard work she's done since she was appointed.

And to say that I'm grateful for all that she's done would be the understatement of the year. She has managed an organization that has approximately 4,000 employees, an upcoming FY 14 budget of \$515.5 million and more than 40 courthouses throughout the state.

This has not been an easy task under any circumstances. As you know, for the last five years Connecticut has had an economic situation unlike any we've ever seen before. In fact, I think it's fair to say that the budget crisis we've faced over the past few years has fundamentally reshaped all of state government. Through it all, Judge Quinn has had to implement extremely difficult decisions – such as closing facilities and making hard staffing decisions. At the same time, she was across the street at the

State Capitol, effectively advocating on behalf of the Judicial Branch to make sure we would have adequate funding to continue to fulfill our constitutional mandates. Under her leadership, she also oversaw the implementation of legislation that recognized the Judicial Branch as a separate branch of government, thereby ensuring that the Branch would be treated as such during the budget process by having our proposed budgets submitted to the legislature without revision by OPM. She was also instrumental in helping to persuade the legislature that we needed a fair process for determining judicial compensation.

We also saw significant policy changes during Barbara's tenure. Perhaps the most important was the transfer of 16- and 17-year-olds into the juvenile court system. The transition could not have gone any smoother and Judge Quinn played a critical role in this transition.

Additionally, she has overseen the implementation of the Branch's strategic plan, which, as you all know, has led to many enhancements that cost little to nothing. In this role, she was heavily involved in projects ranging from providing better services to our limited English-speaking population to making sure that self-represented parties have the resources and tools they need to handle their cases in court.

At the same time, Barbara forged many positive relationships with people in other branches that we need to work with to ensure that the Branch's interests are both articulated and understood when we are not at the table. This she did effectively and with grace, often under pressure. One of the reasons I initially asked Barbara to be the Chief Court Administrator is that I have always thought of her as a rather unique combination of Mary Poppins and the Russian army. For those of you who really know Barbara, you know that behind that gentle, non-assuming style is a resilient and tough advocate.

So today, I want to publicly thank Judge Quinn -- for her hard work, her excellent skills, her tenacity, her kindness, her unfailing calmness during the storm and her loyalty. I wish you only the best of times in your retirement from the position of Chief Court Administrator.

Today, I'd also like to take the opportunity to announce to you the incoming Chief Court Administrator and Deputy Chief Court Administrator.

For as long as Judge Quinn has served as Chief Court Administrator, Judge Pat Carroll has served as Deputy Chief Court Administrator. I chose Pat as Deputy Chief Court Administrator for several reasons, among them his quick intellect, his Yankee common sense and his experience in the trenches, where he served for years as a criminal court judge and also as Administrative Judge in the Danbury Judicial District.

This experience has served him well. Additionally, Pat's a relentless worker. If I text him at 9:00 p.m., he's texting me back at 9:10 p.m. Pat has also been able to cultivate extremely positive relationships with legislators in his role as Deputy Chief Court Administrator because they know they can trust him.

Finally, it may shock you to know that Pat is not shy when it comes to expressing his opinion on a matter. In fact, it's always abundantly clear where Pat stands on an issue, and that's very helpful when I am considering multiple alternatives on a difficult issue. I know he will bring that same honesty and candor to the role of Chief Court Administrator.

That leaves one more open spot, and Elliot Solomon has agreed to serve as the next Deputy Chief Court Administrator.

I did not chose him because he is a Met's fan. Elliot is another hard worker whose specialty is building consensus. He is a master at bringing together disparate voices to reach a compromise that is acceptable to all parties. He does this by being a good listener and, frankly, one of the most patient people I know. Elliot also has a good mix of administrative experience, having served as Administrative Judge in the Tolland Judicial District and as co-chair of various committees associated with the strategic plan. He's been especially active regarding access to justice issues and is co-chair of the Access to Justice Commission.

So I hope all of you will join me in first, thanking Barbara for her dedication and public service, and second, in welcoming Pat and Elliot as they come on board in their respective positions. I look forward to working with them.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today, and I'd now like to turn over the podium to Judge Quinn.

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