



## **Judicial Branch Media Release August 1, 2022**

### **Chief Court Administrator Announces New Chief Administrative Judge of Civil Matters, Effective Sept. 6, 2022**

Chief Court Administrator Patrick L. Carroll III announced today that Judge Barbara N. Bellis has been assigned to serve as chief administrative judge of civil matters commencing September 6, 2022.

Judge Bellis succeeds Judge James W. Abrams, who is completing a five-year term as chief administrative judge for civil matters.

“Judge Abrams has been a reliable partner as the Judicial Branch sought new and creative ways to continue to process civil cases through the challenges of the pandemic. “He played a major role in the initiative to get civil proceedings livestreamed and processed virtually, and then led the effort to resume “in-person” court proceedings, including the resumption of jury trials. He has been a great asset to the Judicial Branch through these unprecedented times.” He brought great skill to this endeavor, and we have been lucky to have him serve as Chief Administrative Judge through this challenging time,” Judge Carroll said.

“I am most grateful that Judge Bellis has agreed to succeed Judge Abrams in this important role and build upon his many successes,” Judge Carroll continued. “She is an extremely talented and dedicated judge, who has many years of experience processing large dockets and presiding over the most complex civil matters.” Judge Bellis has been instrumental in the development and enhancement of the Branch’s e-filing and electronic case management systems and has trained countless new judges on the use of those systems.” Judge Bozzuto and I look forward to working closely with Judge Bellis to develop new and creative ways to leverage the technology that has been deployed during the pandemic to more quickly and efficiently

process civil cases. Judge Bellis will be of great assistance to the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, and she will be an invaluable resource for her colleagues.”

Judge Bellis thanked both Judge Carroll and Judge Abrams.

“I am very grateful to Judge Carroll for his confidence in me and unwavering support,” Judge Bellis said. “I am also so appreciative of the assistance Judge Abrams has provided over the past five years. I hope to set the same example and am honored and humbled to be appointed as his successor.”

Judge Bellis, a Superior Court judge since June 2003, served at Geographical Area courthouses in Danbury, Bridgeport, Norwalk, and New Haven between 2003 and 2007. She presided over civil matters in the New Haven Judicial District (2007-2008) and the Fairfield Judicial District (2008-2009) before being assigned as assistant administrative judge at the Judicial District and Geographical Area Courthouse in Milford (2009-2010), where she also presided over civil cases. From 2010 to 2014, Judge Bellis served as presiding judge of civil matters and assistant administrative judge for the Fairfield Judicial District; in 2014, she was appointed as administrative judge for the Fairfield Judicial District, while continuing to serve as presiding judge of civil matters. Judge Bellis currently is assigned to the Complex Litigation Docket in Waterbury, where she has served since December 2018.

Judge Bellis is a 1983 graduate of Boston College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and classics, and a 1986 graduate of the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law.

As chief administrative judge, Judge Bellis will, among other responsibilities, work with the Chief Court Administrator on policy and procedures affecting civil matters; solicit advice and suggestions from other civil judges; and assist with the statewide implementation of policies and programs.