

## **The Hon. Michael L. Ferguson Named as Chief Family Support Magistrate**

The Hon. Michael L. Ferguson of Meriden has been appointed chief family support magistrate, effective today, Chief Court Administrator Patrick L. Carroll III announced. A family support magistrate for the past seven years, he succeeds the Hon. John E. Colella, who has elected to become a family support magistrate referee.

Family support magistrates hear cases involving paternity and child support. They are not judges but perform some judicial functions. The governor appoints family support magistrates; the chief court administrator appoints the chief family support magistrate.

“This is a very important position within the Judicial Branch, and I have full confidence that Chief Family Support Magistrate Ferguson will provide the necessary leadership to ensure that this very important function operates smoothly to benefit the families and children it serves,” Judge Carroll said. “I am also extremely grateful to John Colella for his extraordinary service to the state of Connecticut. We are fortunate that he is staying on as a referee to continue making a positive difference.”

“It has been a great honor to serve the people of Connecticut as a family support magistrate for the past seven years,” Chief Family Support Magistrate Ferguson said. “I am delighted to take on the role of chief family support magistrate and to work more closely with my fellow magistrates, Judge Carroll and others working to have a positive impact on the lives of Connecticut’s children and families.”



### **Chief Family Support Magistrate Michael L. Ferguson**

A Waterbury native, Chief Family Support Magistrate Ferguson attended public school in his hometown before furthering his education at Central Connecticut State University and the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Before Gov. Dannel P. Malloy appointed him as a family support magistrate in 2011, he worked at the former Colonial Bank as an auditor; Bank of Boston as a programmer; and Phoenix Home Life as a systems

analyst. After graduating from the UConn School of Law, he joined the law firm of Carmody & Torrance, located in Waterbury and New Haven. He next worked at the Law Offices of Gerald Harmon before opening his own general practice law office in Waterbury in 2001, focusing on family, criminal, personal injury, real estate and business law.

Chief Family Support Magistrate Ferguson is a member of the Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative Council, the NAACP and Kellogg Lodge No.

5. Additionally, his involvement in the community has included being a former member of the Waterbury Foundation and Goodwill Elks Lodge, and a former board member/board of directors for the following organizations: Waterbury Youth Services; Family Services of Greater Waterbury; Masonicare Visiting Nurses Association; Community School; Greater Waterbury Chamber of Commerce; and Waterbury Hospital.