



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**JUDGE LINDA K. LAGER NAMED
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF CIVIL MATTERS**

Chief Court Administrator Barbara M. Quinn announced today that Superior Court Judge Linda K. Lager has been appointed as chief administrative judge of civil matters, effective today.

She succeeds the Hon. Dennis G. Eveleigh, who was sworn in today as a justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. Judge Lager currently is administrative judge in the New Haven Judicial District and has been a Superior Court judge since January 1992.

Civil Division cases involve: appeals from administrative decisions; contracts; eminent domain; property and vehicular torts; wills, estates and trusts; and other case types such as habeases. The Civil Division also includes the complex litigation docket. During fiscal year 2008-09, a total of 76,317 cases were added to the civil docket. As chief administrative judge, Judge Lager will represent the chief court administrator on matters of policy affecting the Civil Division; solicit advice and suggestions from judges and others on matters affecting the division; and advise and assist judges in the implementation of new laws, policies and caseflow programs.

“The Judicial Branch is extremely pleased that Judge Lager has accepted this position,” Judge Quinn said. “She brings a tremendous amount of experience, talent and energy to the job, and the residents of the state of Connecticut are the ones who will benefit most from her leadership.”

(MORE)

2-2-2-2 Judge Lager

“I also want to thank Justice Eveleigh for the excellent work he did as chief administrative judge of the Civil Division,” Judge Quinn added. “We are sorry to lose him from the Superior Court bench, but are thrilled that he is now a justice of the Supreme Court.”

“It is both a privilege and an honor to be appointed to this position,” Judge Lager said. “Serving as chief administrative judge of the Civil Division is a great opportunity to continue implementing the strategic plan developed by the Public Service and Trust Commission. I am thankful to both Judge Quinn and Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers, who recognized the need for a strategic plan as the Judicial Branch moves through the 21st century.

“I also look forward to meeting head-on the many challenges the Civil Division faces, because a lot of the work we do directly reflects the impact the recession has had on ordinary citizens,” Judge Lager continued. “In several areas, for example, the number of cases coming in over the past several years has remained fairly steady. But the number of foreclosure cases added between fiscal year 06-07 and fiscal year 08-09 has increased by nearly 9,500. Collections have increased as well, from 14,455 cases added in fiscal year 06-07 to 23,713 for the 08-09 fiscal year. At the same time, we are seeing another significant trend: in 2005, there were 12,356 self-represented parties in civil cases. Four years later, it reached 26,252 -- for an increase of 112 percent.

“So it’s clear to me that the work we do in the Civil Division and the enhancements we make as a result of the strategic plan will have a direct and positive effect on the people we serve,” Judge Lager added. “Moreover, those improvements will help achieve one of our top goals: ensuring that jury trials in civil cases are accessible and affordable to all.”

Judge Lager’s biography and list of assignments since she became a Superior Court judge are attached.

For further information, please contact the External Affairs Division at 860-757-2270.

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