



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

Rhonda.hebert@jud.ct.gov

Rhonda Stearley-Hebert
Manager of Communications

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 23, 2010

**PRESS RELEASE: New Chief Administrative Judge, Criminal Matters,
Three New Administrative Judges Appointed**

Chief Court Administrator Barbara M. Quinn today announced the appointments of a new chief administrative judge, criminal matters, and new administrative judges for the New Britain, New Haven, and Windham Judicial Districts. The appointments take effect Aug. 30, 2010.

The Honorable Robert J. Devlin Jr. will succeed the Honorable Patrick J. Clifford as chief administrative judge, criminal matters. In addition, the Honorable Jon M. Alander will become administrative judge in the New Britain Judicial District, succeeding the Honorable Frank M. D'Addabbo Jr.; the Honorable Brian T. Fischer will become administrative judge in the New Haven Judicial District, succeeding the Honorable Linda K. Lager; and the Honorable Michael E. Riley will become administrative judge in the Windham Judicial District, succeeding the Honorable Antonio C. Robaina.

Typically, chief administrative judge and administrative judges serve five-year terms, as did Judge Clifford, Judge D'Addabbo and Judge Robaina. Judge Lager was in her fourth year as administrative judge when she was appointed as chief administrative judge, civil matters.

"The distinction, dedication and experience that these individuals brought to their roles as chief administrative judge and administrative judge cannot be stressed enough," Judge Quinn said. "Their advice and view from the front line was invaluable, and we are grateful to them for taking on administrative duties in addition to their day-to-day responsibilities as judges."

"We are also pleased that such capable and talented judges have agreed to serve in their stead," she added. "They will serve their judicial districts well and most important, the residents of Connecticut."

(MORE)

2-2-2-2 Judges' appointments

Judge Devlin

Judge Devlin, 60, is a lifelong Connecticut resident and received his juris doctor from the University of Connecticut Law School. He has been on the Superior Court bench since February 1993 and has presided primarily over criminal cases, serving in the Fairfield, New Haven, Hartford, New London, and Stamford-Norwalk judicial districts. Judge Devlin is currently assigned to the Fairfield Judicial District courthouse in Bridgeport, where he presides over criminal trials.

He has presided over a number of notable trials, including the murder trial of Beth Carpenter in New London, and the penalty trial of Russell Peeler in Bridgeport, and in 2008, the Greater Bridgeport Bar Association selected him as its Judge of the Year. Judge Devlin also has served on several Judicial Branch committees, including the Committee on Judicial Ethics and the Criminal Jury Charge Committee, and has been a regular lecturer at the Connecticut Judges Institute.

A former federal prosecutor, Judge Devlin was a member of the prosecution team that secured convictions of the hierarchy of the New England mob, and as result, the U.S. Attorney General in 1992 recognized him as one of America's outstanding federal prosecutors.

As chief administrative judge, his duties will include: representing the Chief Court Administrator on matters of policy affecting criminal matters; soliciting advice and suggestions from judges and others on matters affecting criminal matters; advising and assisting other judges assigned to criminal court; and advising and assisting administrative judges in the implementation of polices and caseload programs.

"I wish to thank Judge Quinn for the opportunity to serve the Judicial Branch as Chief Administrative Judge, Criminal Division," Judge Devlin said. "I hope to continue the steadfast leadership shown by Judge Clifford during his term as CAJ, Criminal. My goal is to assist our judges in their important work of achieving justice for the accused persons, crime victims and all others who daily appear in our criminal courts."

Judge Alander, Judge Fischer & Judge Riley

Each of Connecticut's 13 judicial districts has an administrative judge. Their responsibilities include: representing the Chief Court Administrator in the efficient management of their respective districts; implementing programs and methods for dispositions of cases and administrative policies; and assigning judges within the judicial district, as necessary.

(MORE)

3-3-3-3 Judges' appointments

Judge Alander, 57, received his juris doctor from Yale Law School in 1978. He was appointed to the bench in August 1993 and has served in the Stamford-Norwalk, New Haven, Ansonia-Milford, Waterbury, and Fairfield judicial districts. Effective Aug. 30, he will be assigned to the criminal division in the New Britain Judicial District, in addition to his duties as administrative judge. Previously, he presided over family, criminal and civil cases, and has also been assigned to the complex litigation docket. Before becoming a judge, he served as Commissioner of the State Department of Human Resources, and before that, as executive director of the New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc.

“It is an honor to be appointed the administrative judge for the New Britain Judicial District,” Judge Alander said. “By all accounts, it is served by a dedicated and talented staff, and by experienced and skilled judges. I look forward to working with them.”

Judge Fischer, 57, received his juris doctor from Widener University School of Law. He was appointed to the bench in April 2001 and since then, has served in the Middlesex, Fairfield, Ansonia-Milford, Meriden, New Britain and New Haven judicial districts. Most recently, Judge Fischer was assigned to the Meriden courthouse, where he served as assistant administrative judge for the New Haven Judicial District. Judge Fischer, who currently sits on the Sentence Review Division, has presided over cases in the family, criminal, civil and juvenile divisions, and will hear criminal cases in New Haven effective Aug. 30. Before becoming a judge, he was in private practice in West Haven and also served as assistant city attorney for the town of West Haven.

“I’m honored to serve as administrative judge in the New Haven Judicial District,” Judge Fischer said. “I look forward to my new assignment and working with the excellent staff and judges who are there, so that we may best serve the public.”

Judge Riley, 60, received his juris doctor from Western New England School of Law. He was appointed to the bench in 2004, and was first assigned to the Geographical Area No. 13 courthouse in Enfield, where he heard criminal matters. In August 2004, he was assigned to the Windham Judicial District, where he has continued to serve. Most recently, Judge Riley served as assistant administrative judge in the Windham JD, and he has presided over family, civil and criminal cases. Prior to his appointment as a judge, he worked as a trial attorney, with 26 years of experience in insurance defense litigation and coverage issues.

(MORE)

4-4-4-4 Judges' appointments

“These are challenging times for the Judicial Branch and the State of Connecticut,” Judge Riley said. “I look forward to working with the exceptionally talented staff and judges here, with the goal of providing the same superior level of court services that the residents of Windham County expect and deserve.”

More detailed biographies and assignment lists are available. For further information, please contact the External Affairs Division at 860-757-2270.

###