

### ***New Chief Judge of the Appellate Court Named; Appointment Effective March 5, 2025***

Chief Justice Raheem L. Mullins today announced the appointment of the Hon. Melanie L. Cradle as Chief Judge of the Appellate Court, effective March 5, 2025. Judge Cradle, who has served on the Appellate Court since August 2020, will replace the Hon. William H. Bright Jr., who has been appointed to serve as a Supreme Court Justice.



“It is my pleasure and honor to designate Judge Cradle to serve as the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court,” Chief Justice Mullins said. “Over her career as an attorney, a trial judge and an appellate judge, Judge Cradle has demonstrated the professionalism, intellect, and skills that will make her an excellent Chief Judge.”

Judge Cradle was sworn in as a Superior Court judge in March 2013, following her nomination to the bench by former Gov. Dannel Malloy. She first served in Bridgeport’s Geographical Area Courthouse No. 2 and presided over criminal matters. She was then assigned to New Haven’s Geographical Area Courthouse No. 23 in May 2014, again presiding over criminal matters. In September 2015, she was appointed as presiding judge of criminal matters in New Haven, where she remained until August 2020, when she became an Appellate Court judge.

“It is deeply humbling that Chief Justice Mullins has designated me to serve as the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court, and I thank him for this honor,” Judge Cradle said. “It is an important job, and I look forward to working with my dedicated colleagues and outstanding staff to serve the residents of this state.”

Judge Cradle also thanked Justice Bright for the example that he set as Chief Judge. “I know that I have big shoes to fill, as Justice Bright was excellent at managing the operations of the Court,” Judge Cradle said.

Further biographical information regarding Judge Cradle is available [here](#). For further information, please contact the External Affairs Division at 860-757-2270.