

JUDICIARY TIMES

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Fall 2011

Anne Patterson is New Supreme Court Justice *Chief Justice Administers Oath of Office During Ceremony at War Memorial in Trenton*

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

Anne M. Patterson was sworn in as the newest associate justice of the Supreme Court on Sept. 8 during a ceremony at the War Memorial building in Trenton.

“I will strive to the best of my ability to apply and interpret the laws and the constitution of this great state,” Patterson said after Chief Justice Stuart Rabner administered the oath before a crowd of about 300 well-wishers. “I begin my term as an associate justice with gratitude and humility, and I look forward to the work ahead.”

Patterson, 52, of Mendham, Morris County, was a partner in the law firm Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti when Gov. Chris Christie nominated her to the Supreme Court.

“In addition to your obvious skill and talent, you bring a reputation for unquestioned integrity and civility,” the chief justice said. “We are delighted to welcome you and feel privileged be able to work alongside you as a justice on the Supreme Court.”

Christie nominated Patterson to replace Justice Roberto Rivera-Soto, whose term on the court ended Aug. 31.

Justice Patterson was born in Trenton on April 15, 1959 and was raised in Hopewell Township and Princeton. In 1980, she graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She is a



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner administers the Oath of Office to Associate Justice Anne M. Patterson as her husband, James Patterson, holds the Bible. Patterson succeeds Roberto Rivera-Soto, whose 7-year term on the bench ended on Aug. 31.

1983 graduate of Cornell Law School, where she won the Cuccia Cup moot court competition.

She was admitted to the New Jersey bar in 1983.

She joined Riker Danzig in 1983 as an associate. She left the firm in 1989 to serve as a deputy attorney general and special assistant to New Jersey Attorney General Peter N. Perretti Jr., handling civil litigation and criminal appeals on

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New Program Allows Victims to Apply for TROs From Safe Location

The New Jersey Judiciary and the Attorney General’s Office have joined with hospitals and safe houses to help victims of domestic violence apply for temporary restraining orders without going to a courthouse.

Through the Hospital to Court Safety Assistance Project and the Safe House to Court Safety Assistance Project, domestic violence victims can appear before a judge via videoconferencing if they are being treated in an emergency room or have sought refuge in a safe house.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, who was made the use of technology a top priority for the courts, said “Expanding the use of technology is about more than managing court files. We already use videoconferencing to hold statewide meetings and conduct first appearances in criminal cases.

“This new use of readily available technology helps victims of domestic violence remain safe and feel secure – a smart and useful way for the courts to harness technology,” the chief justice said.

The program was piloted in the Passaic Vicinage in partnership with St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center in Paterson and has expanded to include hospitals in Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson and Union counties and safe houses in Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris and Passaic counties.

“It’s often difficult for domestic violence victims to seek a temporary restraining order if they are injured and need

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Anne Patterson Takes Oath As Newest Supreme Court Justice

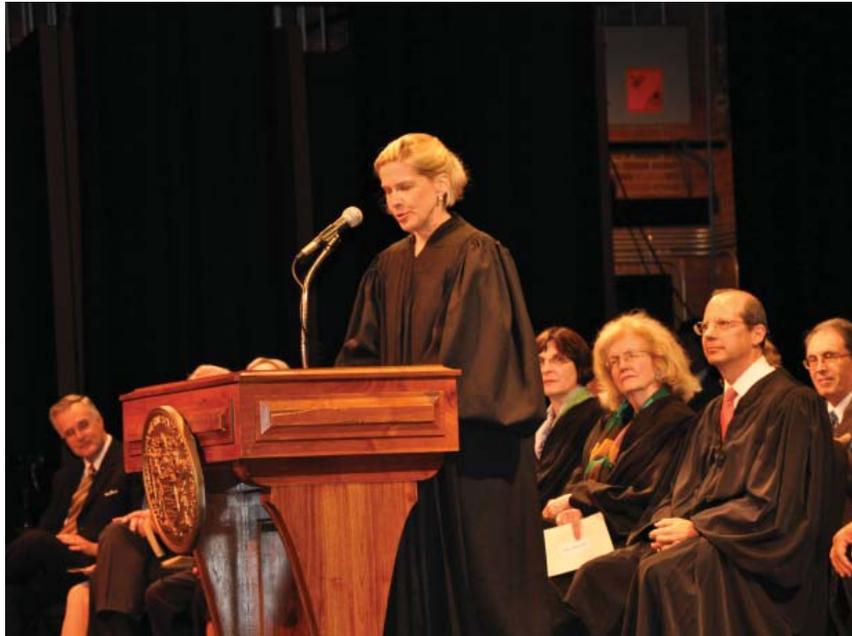
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behalf of the state.

She became a partner at Riker Danzig after rejoining the firm in 1992. Her practice focused on product liability, intellectual property and commercial litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts.

Patterson served as chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association Product Liability and Toxic Tort Section, as an officer and trustee of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey, and as a trustee of the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey. From 1991 to 2006, Patterson served on the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Character. Justice Patterson was awarded the William A. Dreier Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Product Liability and Toxic Tort Law and the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism's Professional Lawyer of the Year Award.

She was elected to the New Jersey Fellows of the American Bar Foundation in 2011.



Supreme Court Associate Justice Anne M. Patterson speaks following her swearing in at the War Memorial in Trenton on Sept. 8.

Judiciary Issues Annual Report for 2010-2011 Court Year

The New Jersey Judiciary today announced the release of its 2010-2011 Annual Report.

In his introduction, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner emphasizes the Judiciary's efforts to ensure access to justice for all litigants. Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, highlights the Judiciary's strong infrastructure as a key to its continued success.

The report highlights new programs

and services that the Judiciary has developed during the year and gives an overview of the structure and operations of the New Jersey court system.

It includes information on drug courts, the Veteran's Assistance Project, electronic filing and case management, and other efforts by the Judiciary to provide high quality customer service to court users.

The report can be found at njcourts.com.

Judiciary Times is published by the Office of Communications and Community Relations, the Administrative Office of the Courts, for employees of the Judiciary, volunteers who work with the court system and the public.

The chief justice is Stuart Rabner. The acting administrative director of the courts is Judge Glenn A. Grant.

Please send short news articles, photos and suggestions to Mike Mathis, Editor, *Judiciary Times*, Office of Communications and Community Relations, PO Box 037, Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex, Trenton NJ 08625-0037 or via e-mail at Mike.Mathis@judiciary.state.nj.us. Submissions are subject to editing, and not all can be published.

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Winifred Comfort

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Kimberly Cicala; Thomas G. Dibble; Mary McGinty Flanagan; Rosemarie Marinan-Gabriel; Gina Goldstein; Tamara Kendig; Dawn Materia; Sonal Pushko; June Zieder and the AOC Print Shop.



This is a view of a part of downtown Mount Holly taken in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene in early September. Buildings in several vicinages, including Burlington and Passaic, experienced flooding caused by the hurricane. See Page 7 for a story about how Passaic handled the deluge.

Essex Vicinage Hosts National Conference for Women Judges

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Jurists from Around World Attended

By **Tamara Kendig**

Administrative Office of the Courts

Thomas G. Dibble
and **Kimberly Cicala**

Essex Vicinage

The 33rd annual conference of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) was held in Newark from Oct. 12 through Oct. 16.

In keeping with this year's theme of "Global Women's Issues," the conference incorporated programs about violence against women, including domestic violence, ensuring economic equality for women, human trafficking, urban revitalization issues such as the foreclosure crisis, access to education, prisoner re-entry and cross-cultural issues in court.

The conference chair was Judge Sue Pai Yang of the New Jersey Workers Compensation Court in Newark, and the chair of the New Jersey chapter of the NAWJ was Judge Michelle Hollar-Gregory of the Essex Vicinage.

Attendance at this year's conference was the highest ever for the NAWJ. Among the 270 full conference registrants were 135 judges from New Jersey as well as judges from 27 other states and 27 foreign countries.

Promotional pieces for the conference featured photography by Essex Vicinage Court Interpreter Robert Zemser. Support for the conference came from the law schools, law firms, local businesses and the Judiciary.

In his welcome letter to conference participants, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner said, "We are honored to serve as the host location for this year's



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner and Essex Vicinage Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello were among the jurists who attended the 33rd annual conference of the National Association of Women Judges in Newark from Oct. 12 through Oct. 16. The chief justice gave the welcoming address.

conference because its theme, Global Women's Issues, is particularly relevant to our citizens and court system. As one of the most diverse states in the nation, New Jersey is home to a variety of people, languages, and cultures. Our diversity is a source of strength for us: it brings together ideas, experiences and aspirations from all around the world and broadens our awareness of how different and alike we all are."

The Essex Vicinage Office of the Ombudsman organized pre-conference tours of the Superior Court complex for approximately 40 international judges.

On the evening of Oct. 12, a welcome reception for more than 200 people was held in the rotunda of the Essex County Historic Courthouse.

The reception featured tours of the grand building and remarks by Rabner; Appellate Division Judge Francine I. Axelrad, chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts; Essex Vicinage Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello and Hollar-

Gregory.

Supreme Court Justices Helen E. Hoens and Anne M. Patterson also attended, as did Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts.

"Essex Vicinage was honored to host the opening event of the conference in our Historic Courthouse," Costello said. "The energy in the room was amazing, and the participants' enthusiasm for the issues was very inspiring."

The conference officially opened with a plenary session on Thursday at the Newark Hilton. After welcoming remarks by Newark Mayor Cory Booker and NAWJ President Judge Marjorie Laird Carter, attorney Raymond M. Brown led a panel discussion with leaders in global women's issues.

The panelists discussed how having a woman on the bench affects cases that come before the court. Retired Judge Alice Chamberlayne Hill, now senior counsel to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, gave a moving and informative keynote presentation during a luncheon at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on human trafficking and efforts that the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security is making to prosecute traffickers and prevent trafficking both at home and abroad.

On Oct. 14, the Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Symposium in International Women's Rights was held at Rutgers Law School-Newark. The program was organized by conference co-chair, Rutgers Law School Senior Associate Dean Frances Bouchoux.

The day began with a lively panel chaired by retired New Jersey Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz. The panel discussed cultural aspects of violence against women and what legal mechanisms exist - or should exist - to eliminate such violence.

The keynote luncheon was addressed

Editor's Note

The deadline for the winter 2011-2012 edition of the *Judiciary Times* is Friday, Dec. 16.

Story ideas and submissions can be sent to Mike.Mathis@judiciary.state.nj.us.

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Monmouth Employs New File Tracking System in Family

Use of Tracking System and Scanning Devices Expected to Improve Efficiency

By Rosemarie Marinan-Gabriel

Family Division Manager
Monmouth Vicinage

The Monmouth Vicinage continues to expand the use of technology to streamline procedures and increase efficiency.

One of the most recent advancements is the installation of an innovative file tracking system.

The system uses radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology, or radio waves, to transfer data from an electronic tag attached to an object or file.

“RFID technology is a great deal more effective than a manual system for identifying and tracking items,” Information Technology Division Manager David Gonzalez said. “Unlike bar codes, RFID tags can be read if passed within close proximity to a scanner; they can also be detected inside cartons and closed areas. Furthermore, multiple tags can be read at the same time.”

When a new file is created, a microchip is installed as a tracking device that allows the file to be located at any stage of case processing.

When the file is removed from its

initial storage location, a scanning device records the name of the employee taking possession through their state identification card.

If the file is given to another person, the exchange is noted in the system, establishing a chain of custody.

Handheld scanning devices enable staff to locate specific files in their work areas. Microchips will be added to existing files as they are calendared for proceedings so that most active files will gradually be integrated into the system.

The launch of this technology has encouraged the vicinage to consider future applications for other family case types and divisions.

Mercer Employment Resource Fair Connected Probationers with Prospective Employers

By Gina Goldstein

Ombudsman
Mercer Vicinage

Mercer Vicinage’s probation division hosted its first employment resource fair for probationers in July.

Probationers must be employed, actively seeking employment or enrolled in school as part of their sentences. One of the roles of probation officers is to assist probationers in their pursuit of employment.

Probation Office Jessica Vigier and supervisor Arlene Johnson devised the idea because the trying economic conditions have made finding work difficult.

They developed a list of career counselors and prospective employers that are currently hiring and willing to give those with a criminal record a chance to secure gainful employment.

Among the companies and organizations that were present at the fair were Kohl’s, Foot Locker, Wendy’s, MacDonald’s, UIH Family Partners (Operation Fatherhood), Rutgers Youth Education and Employment Success Center, Mercer County Community College and Mercer County One Stop Career Center.

“Usually when probationers report to us, the probationers and their parents are always asking about employment opportunities,” said Vigier.

“It was obvious to us that something else had to be done,” she said. “Everyone makes mistakes.” Hence, this two-hour event gave hope to those out of work and presented opportunities to those impoverished.”

Mercer Vicinage’s probation division, led by Chief Vicinage Probation Officer Frank DiGaiamo, Assistant Vicinage Probation Officers Robert MacDonald, and Cynthia Vanek, support their officers in these types of endeavors.

“Finding jobs is always a struggle for people with criminal records,” MacDonald said.

“It takes an extra effort on the part of the individual to find employers who will take a chance on someone who’s committed a crime,” MacDonald said.

Organizers said the fair will be held again next year.

Essex Hosts National Conference of Women Judges

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by Luis CdeBaca, the ambassador-at-large who oversees the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the U.S. State Department.

CdeBaca compared human trafficking to slavery, which is the use of force or the threat of force to coerce people into providing free labor against their will.

The topic of human trafficking, which affects an estimated 37 million people around the world, was addressed at the afternoon session.

The featured breakout sessions at the Seton Hall University School of Law on Oct. 15 were on the judicial role in a variety of current issues.

Ginsburg was the keynote speaker to more than 400 people at the NAWJ Annual Awards Banquet at the Newark Club. The conference concluded on Oct. 16 with a farewell breakfast and video montage of the week’s events.

Founded in 1979, the National Association of Women Judges’ mission is to promote the judicial role of protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership, fairness and equality in the courts, and equal access to justice. For more information, visit www.nawj.org.

Youth Offenders are Victorious in Annual Judiciary Olympics

By Mary Flanagan

Probation Service Division
Administrative Office of the Courts

The 24th Annual Judiciary Olympics was held on Aug. 2 at North Hunterdon High School.

A total of 140 juvenile probationers from 18 counties competed for the gold on a hot day at a beautiful facility in the hills of Hunterdon County. Individual medals were awarded in events such as the long jump, 100-meter dash, 400 meter relay, football throw, home run derby, softball toss, obstacle course and tug of war.

Trophies were awarded to the counties with the top three overall scores. Burlington County took first place for the second consecutive year, Essex county took the second place trophy, and the northern region of the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program took third place.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our court staff to see probationers as kids trying to succeed and for the probationers to see probation officers as supporting their efforts,” said Judge Hany A. Mawla, a Hunterdon County family division judge who presented awards to the winners. “This is the message we want them to hear.”

This was the first year that Hunterdon County hosted the Judiciary Olympics, and vicinage assistant chief Edward Butler was proud of the team of probation officers from Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties who performed host duties.

Under the direction of court services supervisor Beverly Saylor, the team was at North Hunterdon by 8 a.m. to set up the individual events, distribute water, erect tents and tables, and make sure they were ready to go when the first participants began arriving at 9:30 a.m.

At the opening ceremony, vicinage chief probation officer John Higgins greeted the approximately 250 attendees and thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the day.



Edward Butler, assistant chief probation officer in the Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage, family division Judge Hany A. Mawla and Trial Court Administrator Eugene Farkas stand at the trophy table at the 24th annual Judiciary Olympics.

Warren County Senior Probation Officer Julie McKeon sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* a cappella, and a Hunterdon County participant read the *Athlete's Pledge* to start the games.

The athletes were cheered by probation services division assistant director Kevin M. Brown, chief Gayle Maher, Eugene Farkas, trial court administrator for the Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage, and chief probation officers from the participating counties.

The Positive Interventions Committee (“PIC”) of Juvenile Probation Services sponsors the event, which originated as a recreation subcommittee bringing probationers together to play basketball, flag football and a tug of war.

The Judiciary Olympics now reflects the diversity of skills and interest of its members statewide.

Probation officers select youth to participate in the Judiciary Olympics based on compliance with the conditions of their probation and their ability to work successfully with the other team members.

Their participation is both a reward for their work on probation and an

opportunity for them to experience a positive social and leisure activity

Probationers also have an opportunity to observe probation officers as models of positive adult behavior in situations outside the probation office, including addressing issues that arise on a two-hour car ride with teenagers, handling disappointment and frustration in competition, and healthy and safe ways to celebrate.

Curtis Hurff, vicinage assistant chief probation officer in the Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage and chair of the Positive Interventions Committee, believes events such as this can be an important part of the probation experience:

“Probation is more than an enforcement activity,” he said. “It also requires us to aid in the rehabilitation of the client.

“For some kids, that kind of change cannot happen just in the probation office during reporting night,” Hurff said. “PIC activities provide probation officers an opportunity to impact their clients on a personal level.”

Ocean Vicinage Welcomes Two New Judges To Family Division

By Sonal Pushko

Assistant Family Division Manager
Ocean Vicinage

Two new judges have joined the Ocean Vicinage.

Judge Madelin F. Einbinder was sworn in on Aug. 4 and Melanie Donohue Appleby took the oath of office on Aug. 12. Both are assigned to the family division.

Einbinder is a graduate of Smith College in Northampton, Mass., where she majored in Russian civilization.

After graduating from Seton Hall Law School, Einbinder served as a clerk to several judges in the Ocean Vicinage.

She served as an assistant Ocean County prosecutor for 23 years, including a recent stint as supervisor of the domestic violence and Megan's Law units, before she was appointed to the bench.

"I am grateful to have this opportunity to serve as a Superior Court judge in Ocean County," Einbinder said. "After having been an assistant Ocean County prosecutor and appearing in court for the



Judge Madelin F. Einbinder



Judge Melanie Donohue Appleby

past 23 years, I believe the judges and staff in this county are the best anywhere, and it is an honor to work with them in this capacity."

Judge Appleby graduated from Douglass College, Rutgers University, with a double major in biochemistry and biology.

After graduating from Rutgers School of Law-Camden, Appleby became a law clerk for Appellate Court Judge James M. Havey.

She went on to do insurance defense

work and also served as a Toms River councilwoman, and had opened a law office in Toms River earlier this year.

"I am thrilled and honored to be appointed to sit as a Superior Court judge in Ocean County," Appleby said. "I look forward to working in the family part and truly appreciate the help and guidance I have received from everyone here as I settle into my new role."

Bergen Employee Becomes Certified Records Manager

By Thomas G Dibble

Operations Division Manager
Essex Vicinage

Henry Gozdz, records coordinator and law librarian in the Bergen Vicinage, is the new chair of the statewide records coordinators committee.

Gozdz recently obtained the status of Certified Records Manager (CRM) from the Institute of Certified Records Managers.

The CRM is a six-part program of study and testing on all aspects of records management's various functions.

These include active and stored records, information technology and a detailed case study.

CRMs are recognized as the highest level of professional competence in the field.

Gozdz has a master's degree in library science and has worked for the Judiciary for 11 years.

Monmouth Vicinage, Bar Association Commemorate Sept. 11 With Day of Service

By Dawn Matera

Operations Division Manager
Monmouth Vicinage

The Monmouth Vicinage and the Monmouth Bar Association held a Day of Service for the public on Monday, Sept. 12 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 tragedy.

The Day of Service included seminars by volunteer attorneys on elder law, bankruptcy, civil post-judgment collections and child custody/family matters.

"The Monmouth Vicinage is pleased to join the Monmouth Bar Association to honor the anniversary of Sept. 11," Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson said.

"Through this public service, we hope to strengthen bonds with the community while paying tribute to

those whose lives were touched by the Sept. 11 events," Lawson said.

Lawson's courtroom was set aside as an area of meditation and reflection. A poignant slide show created by financial specialist Nicole French played throughout the day.

The slide show included the names of 147 Monmouth County residents who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001 along with photographs of inspirational county memorial sites and individuals who died in service to our nation.

Breathtaking photography of the World Trade Center by Senior Probation Officer Carolyn Dorfman also was exhibited in the courtroom.

Passaic Vicinage Moves Court Operations Following Hurricane Irene Deluge

By **June Zieder**

Ombudsman
Passaic Vicinage

When historic levels of flooding hit Passaic County, the effects were devastating.

High winds and flooding paralyzed the city of Paterson and the surrounding towns. The Passaic County Courthouse and the Passaic County Administrative Offices were closed from Monday, Aug. 28 through Thursday, Sept. 1, with a delayed opening on Friday Sept. 2.

To ensure that the public would have uninterrupted access to the courts for emergent matters, Passaic Vicinage implemented its COOP, or Continuity of Operations Plans.

Beginning on Tuesday, Aug. 29, the Passaic County Superior Court operated out of Passaic County Technical Institute in Wayne.

“The single most important aspect of implementing our COOP plan was communication,” said Marie L.

Faber, Passaic Vicinage trial court administrator. “Because we were able to communicate with the court users, there was really no disruption in service for emergent matters.

While the courthouse itself was closed, the Judiciary was very much accessible.”

“GO-Kits” equipped with laptops, key fobs with sample court documents, hard copies of other court documents, sample orders, calendars and contact lists, and finance forms were brought to the school.

The temporary location included a classroom assigned for each division that served as that division’s courtroom and staff area. The school’s secretarial area was designated as the centralized phone fax and reception area.

The Passaic County Sheriff’s Department provided security and weapons screening.

A public waiting area was established just beyond the weapons screening area.

Domestic Violence Victims Can Obtain TROs Remotely

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medical attention or if they are afraid to leave a safe house,” said Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts. “Allowing victims to apply for a TRO via videoconferencing gives them protection from their abuser, affords them some peace of mind and helps expedite the legal process for obtaining a final restraining order.”

New Jersey’s Prevention of Domestic Violence Act permits all victims of domestic violence to obtain a restraining order to protect them from further harm if someone is hurting them. The abuser can be a spouse, former spouse or the co-parent of a child.

Without leaving the hospital or safe house, a victim can obtain a restraining order from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. A social worker or nurse will begin the process and make the initial contact with the court.

When a victim files for a restraining order from the hospital or safe house during court hours, a court professional conducts the initial interview and helps the victim complete the application for a restraining order by phone and over a closed encrypted video conferencing system. An interpreter is provided if needed.

After the application is complete, the victim appears before a judge or hearing officer over the video network. This is when the victim can discuss the situation with the judge or hearing officer.

The judge or hearing officer makes a decision regarding the application for a temporary restraining order.

If the order is granted, court staff faxes a temporary restraining order to the hospital or safe house for the victim’s signature.

After the hearing, the judge or hearing officer provides the victim with additional information about the court process and other available resources.

The hearing officer then sets a date for the victim to appear in court to obtain a final restraining order.

Mendez Named Assignment Judge in Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage

Superior Court Judge Julio L. Mendez became assignment judge of the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage on Nov. 1.

Mendez succeeded Judge Valerie H. Armstrong, who retired Nov. 1 after 10 years as assignment judge, capping 20 years on the Superior Court bench.

Mendez has been on the bench for nine years. He was appointed by Gov. James E. McGreevey on July 19, 2002 and then reappointed with tenure by Gov. Jon Corzine in July 2009.

His first assignment was in Cumberland County, first to the criminal division for two years and then to the family division.

“Judge Mendez has proven himself a leader among his peers and a jurist of the highest caliber,” said Chief Justice Stuart Rabner. “The judges, staff, attorneys and litigants in Atlantic and

Cape May counties will be well served by his experience and dedication.

In September 2005, after he served for one year in the family division, then-Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz appointed Mendez to be presiding judge of the division for the Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage.

“I am grateful to be selected by Chief Justice Rabner to lead the outstanding judges and staff in the Atlantic and Cape May courthouses. When I left my native Cuba as a teenager, it would have been impossible to imagine the honor of serving New Jersey as a judge in this role. And while succeeding Judge Armstrong is certainly a challenge, it is one I promise to face with my new colleagues in a spirit of fairness and integrity and with hard work,” Mendez said.

Superior Court Clerk Takes Oath; Professionalism Day Held



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner administers the Oath of Office to Jennifer M. Perez, clerk of the Superior Court, during a ceremony at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton on Nov. 1. Holding the Bible is Perez's husband, Pasquale Guglietta.

Perez's Judiciary career began in the Camden Vicinage, where she served as civil division manager before she was named acting Superior Court clerk since April 2008.

Steven Bonville, chief of staff, and Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, listen to speakers during the AOC's observance of Professionalism Day, an initiative of the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law.

Seminars on ethics and professionalism were held for judges and attorneys across the state. Events were planned by county bar associations and the Judiciary.



Mission Statement of the New Jersey Courts

We are an independent branch of government constitutionally entrusted with the fair and just resolution of disputes in order to preserve the rule of law and to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States and this State.