



News Release

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Steven A. Somogyi Named Assistant Director for Municipal Court Services Division

Steven A. Somogyi has been named the new assistant director for the municipal court services division of the New Jersey Judiciary, Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, announced today.

Somogyi succeeds Debra A. Jenkins, who recently retired. The appointment is effective immediately.

Since 2009, Somogyi has served as chief of the policy and procedures unit of the Judiciary's municipal court services division. He also has worked as a division manager in the Burlington Vicinage and as a supervisor in the probation division of the Mercer Vicinage.

Somogyi will oversee a 34-member division that provides strategic planning and management oversight of the state's municipal courts, offering technical assistance and procedural guidance while assisting in the development and implementation of policies, procedures and performance measures.

"I want to help continue the great tradition we have in the municipal court services division of providing needed services and setting a standard by which other states measure success," Somogyi said.

A top priority and challenge, Somogyi said, will be assisting municipal courts in making sure "all the tools are in place" when the state implements reform measures in January 2017 that will dramatically change how bail is administered.

"Steven is a natural leader who brings a great deal of experience and enthusiasm to his new position," said Judge Grant. "He will play a vital role in helping our municipal courts to prepare for changes that will reform our state's criminal justice system."

In his previous position, Somogyi played a leadership role implementing policies and procedures impacting New Jersey's courts. He also oversaw the judicial services unit, which serves as the legal arm of the municipal court services division.

"Steven not only understands the needs of our municipal courts, but how our courts must work within the broader Judiciary structure," said Trial Court Services Director Jennifer Perez, to whom Somogyi will report. "That dual perspective will serve him well in his new role as assistant director."

A graduate of Temple University, Somogyi began his career with the municipal court services division in 1994 as an administrative specialist. He then served as a court services supervisor for the probation division of the Mercer Vicinage, where he headed the vicinage's community service and probation intake units and initiated the division's employee assistance program.

From 2004 to 2009, Somogyi served as municipal division manager of the Burlington Vicinage, where he coordinated with the municipal presiding judge to provide support and oversight to the vicinage's 40 municipal courts and its 120 administrators and staff.

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