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Chief Justice Announces Two New Assignment Judges Judge Gallipoli to Head Hudson, Judge Costello to Head Essex

New Jersey Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz today announced the appointment of new assignment judges for the Hudson County and Essex County Vicinages. Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli, presiding judge of the Hudson Civil Division, will become assignment judge for Hudson County on Sept. 1, upon the retirement of Assignment Judge Arthur N. D'Italia. Judge Patricia K. Costello, presiding judge of the Hudson Family Division, will become assignment judge in Essex County on Aug. 1, when Assignment Judge Joseph A. Falcone moves to the Appellate Division.

"Judge D'Italia will be missed by his friends and colleagues in Hudson County and across the state. He has been a fine judge and a leader on the Judicial Council. The Council will miss his important contributions to the administration of the court system. We wish him well in his retirement," said the Chief Justice.

"And, as Judge Falcone prepares to leave his post in Essex County for the Appellate Division, I thank him for his dedicated hard work and wish him well in this new phase of his judicial career," said Chief Justice Poritz.

Judge Gallipoli was a partner in the firm Lamb, Blake, Hutchinson & Dunne before his appointment to the bench in 1987. He holds a B.S. from St. Peter's College and an L.L.B. from New York University.

"Judge Gallipoli has led the Civil Division in Hudson County for more than 15 years and is a proven manager. He has made a significant contribution to the quality of justice in New Jersey both on the bench and in his work on committees in the area of civil practice. The people of Hudson County, his judicial colleagues and the attorneys who come before the court will benefit from his leadership and experience," said Chief Justice Poritz.

Judge Gallipoli, 62, and his wife Marion, a nurse, live in Mountainside. They have one daughter, Lisa, who works for the National Alliance for Autistic Research.

"I am honored that the Chief Justice has asked me to succeed Judge D'Italia, my long-time colleague and friend," said Judge Gallipoli. "The judges and staff in Hudson are a great team, and I will be proud to work with them as assignment judge," he added.

Judge Costello, 50, holds a B.A. from Seton Hall University and a J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law. She was a partner in the Hoboken firm of McAlevy & Costello until her appointment to the bench in 1989.

Since joining the Hudson Vicinage, Judge Costello has served in every division of the court. A number of her trial court decisions have been published, as have several opinions written by her while temporarily assigned to the Appellate Division. She has been active in a wide variety of endeavors in the field of judicial administration, serving on several

Supreme Court Committees, including Aids and the Law and the Wallace Ad Hoc Committee on Bar Admissions. She also has been instrumental in the career development of new Family Division judges through the design and delivery of training programs for judges and lectures for judicial training seminars.

Chief Justice Poritz offered praise to Judge Costello as she made today's announcement. "I am pleased that Judge Costello has accepted the challenge of heading the largest vicinage in New Jersey. She brings experience across all divisions, history as a manager and dedication to serving the public to her new post in Essex County," said the Chief Justice.

Judge Costello looks forward to her new assignment. "I would like to thank Chief Justice Poritz for appointing me to this position. I am thrilled at the opportunity to serve as Essex County assignment judge. I have deep ties to Essex County. I went to law school there, started my legal career there, and owned my first home there. I know many of the judges in Essex and look forward to getting to know the rest and to working with both the bench and staff. They are a tremendously talented group and I intend to rely heavily on their expertise and advice," said Judge Costello.

Judge Costello's husband of 20 years, Judge Thomas P. Olivieri, also sits in Hudson County as presiding judge of the General Equity Division. They live in Kearny with their son Patrick and daughter Kate.

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