



BURLINGTON VICINAGE PRESS RELEASE MEDIA ADVISORY & PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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FIRST FEMALE TO PARTICIPATE IN JAPANESE JUDGE VISITATION PROGRAM OBSERVES BURLINGTON COURTS

MOUNT HOLLY – Hajimemashite! This is Japanese for “nice to meet you.” The judges and staff at the Burlington Superior Court are pleased to meet and host this year’s visiting Japanese Judge Sugako Shinkai. This is the second year Burlington has hosted a Japanese judge. Judge Shinkai is the first female to participate in the Japanese Judge Visitation Program and represents the 37th judge from Japan to visit under the auspices of the program. The program, which began in 1972, is a cooperative effort between the New Jersey Judiciary and the Supreme Court of Japan. The program is designed to assist young Japanese judges to learn about our justice system from the inside through visitations and research.

Judge Shinkai came to Burlington on Oct. 30, 2006 and will end her stay on Friday, Nov. 17. Burlington County Superior Court judges and managers have met with Judge Shinkai and have arranged for her to observe court proceedings, attend conferences and meet with various court staff to accomplish her objectives. Trial Court Administrator Jude Del Preore provided Judge Shinkai with a brief orientation and overview of the New Jersey Judicial system.

Judge Shinkai’s primary focus is on civil practice and procedures. She is particularly interested in the role of expert witnesses during trial. Judge Shinkai is from the Osaka District Court and graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Tokyo. Judge Shinkai was appointed to the bench in Oct. 2003 and resides in Osaka.

“We take great pride in hosting these young judges and we enjoy this wonderful opportunity to share information about our different legal and social cultures,” stated Burlington Assignment Judge John A. Sweeney.

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