

News Release



New Jersey Courts

Independence • Integrity • Fairness • Quality Service

GLENN A. GRANT, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

For more information contact:

PETER McALEER

MARYANN SPOTO

Office of Communications and Community Relations

609-815-2910

www.njcourts.gov

RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX • P.O. BOX 037 • TRENTON, NJ 08625-0984

For immediate release: **Sept. 10, 2019**

Jill Vito Named Trial Court Administrator for Ocean Vicinage

Assignment Judge Marlene Lynch Ford of the Ocean Vicinage announced today the appointment of Jill Vito as trial court administrator, effective Oct. 26.

Vito succeeds Kenneth Kerwin, who is retiring after serving 44 years in the Judiciary.

She has worked as the vicinage's family division manager since 2016.

"Jill worked her way up through the Judiciary and has shown the dedication necessary to be a valuable contributor to our system of justice," said Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts. "We wish her well in her new role and have every confidence that she will continue the level of excellence the vicinage has shown over the years."

Vito started working in the Judiciary in 2001 as a law clerk to Judge Ford. She was hired the following year as a court services supervisor in the civil division, where she later served as assistant division manager and manager during her 14 years there. She has been the family division manager since April 2016.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Montclair State University and obtained her law degree from Widener University Delaware Law School.

"Jill has earned the respect of all who have worked with her, including judges, staff, attorneys, county personnel and litigants," Judge Ford said. "Her professionalism, knowledge of the challenges within our vicinage and commitment to serving all court users will make her a valued and respected leader."

Vito will work closely with Judge Ford and vicinage leadership to manage a court operation that includes 23 judges and 414 employees.

"I am honored to accept the position of trial court administrator for the Ocean Vicinage. I am looking forward to working with Assignment Judge Ford, our judges, managers and dedicated staff as we strive to provide quality service to all court users," Vito said. "I want to thank Assignment Judge Ford and Administrative Director Grant for this opportunity. In addition, I'd like to express my gratitude to retiring TCA Ken Kerwin for his leadership and years of service."

Kerwin, who has been trial court administrator since 2011, spent his entire Judiciary career in the Ocean Vicinage, where he started as a probation officer in 1975. He was named assistant family division manager in 1986 and was promoted to family division manager the following year. In 1992, he was named chief probation officer, a position he held until 2005 when he became civil division manager.

“Ken was an outstanding trial court administrator who was instrumental in advancing the policy initiatives of our court system,” Judge Grant said. “He leaves a proud legacy in Ocean County.”

The trial court administrator, who is appointed by the administrative director of the courts, is the highest ranking staff executive in the vicinage in charge of all court operations, including financial management, human resources, information systems, case coordination, case flow management, probation services, jury utilization, facilities, equipment, maintenance, records management and statistical analysis.

“After 44 years of service within the Judiciary, Ken has earned a well-deserved retirement. We are all grateful for his past service and envious of his future that will be spent enjoying his family and friends,” Judge Ford said. “Although a tough act to follow I am confident that Jill is up to the task.”

#