

News Release



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STUART RABNER

Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court

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Superior Court Judge Morris G. Smith Appointed to Appellate Division

Superior Court Judge Morris G. Smith will be temporarily assigned to the Appellate Division effective Sept. 1, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner announced today.

Judge Smith sat in the family part and the criminal and civil divisions in the Camden Vicinage prior to his Appellate Division assignment.

A graduate of Washington University at St. Louis School of Law, Judge Smith was appointed to the Superior Court by Gov. Chris Christie in 2014. He is eligible for tenure in 2021.

Before joining the Judiciary, Judge Smith was a general counsel with the Philadelphia Board of Education and a solicitor for the City of Camden before going into private practice where he specialized in economic development, land use, and real estate matters.

He is a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement (DICE); chair of Statewide Committee of Vicinage DICE Chairs; and chair of Vicinage IV Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement Committee. He previously served on the Vicinage IV Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Statewide Pilot Program Committee and on the Supreme Court Working Group on the Indiscriminate Shackling of Juveniles in Court.

The Appellate Division of the Superior Court is New Jersey's intermediate court. The 33 Appellate Division judges hear appeals from decisions of the trial courts, the Tax Court and state administrative agencies. The Appellate Division generally decides between 6,000 and 6,600 appeals and about 9,500 motions annually.

“It has been a great privilege to work with the talented judges and staff of the Camden Vicinage,” Judge Smith said. “I am excited to take on this new challenge in the Appellate Division and I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Chief Justice Rabner for his confidence in my ability to continue to serve the citizens of this state in this role.”

Ordinarily, temporary assignments to the Appellate Division commence in the spring. Because of the ongoing health emergency, Judge Smith's assignment will not start until later in the year.

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