

News Release



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For immediate release: **Oct. 7, 2021**

Statement of Chief Justice Stuart Rabner on Legislative Apportionment Commission

“The New Jersey Constitution provides that, if the Legislative Apportionment Commission is unable to establish Senate and Assembly districts, the Commission ‘shall so certify to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey and he shall appoint an eleventh member of the Commission.’ N.J. Const. art. IV, § 3, ¶ 2. In a year like this when the official census data has been delayed, the Constitution calls for the Chief Justice to appoint the eleventh member ‘within one month of the Governor’s receipt of [the delayed] census data.’ Id. at ¶ 4.

As I did a decade ago, I asked the two political parties to attempt to propose a consensus candidate whom I could appoint as the tiebreaker. The parties were unable to reach agreement. They have since asked that I appoint an independent member to the Commission. As a result, I have selected and today announce the appointment of the Honorable Philip S. Carchman (ret.) to serve as the Commission’s eleventh member.

In naming Judge Carchman, I considered the factors the Constitution lists for the appointment of an independent member to the Congressional Redistricting Commission: education, occupational experience, prior public service, and demonstrated ability to represent the best interests of the people. N.J. Const. art. II, § 2, ¶ 1(c). Judge Carchman’s extraordinary record of service and achievement stand out on all of those measures.

Judge Carchman graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Finance, with a B.S. in economics in 1963. Three years later, he graduated from the law school at the University of Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, he served as a law secretary for one year to the Honorable Leon Gerofsky, A.J.S.C., and the Honorable John C. Demos, J.S.C.

In Judge Carchman’s notable and wide-ranging legal career, spanning more than a half century, he has held multiple positions of trust. He served as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of New Jersey from September 1967 through May 1970; as a member of the

law firm of Carchman, Annich, Sochor & Shuster from 1967 to 1981; and as a Judge of the Municipal Court for the Township of Princeton from 1973 to 1980 and for the Borough of Princeton from 1973 to 1981.

Judge Carchman was appointed the Mercer County Prosecutor in 1981. He held that position until March 1986, when he became a Judge of the Superior Court. In the years that followed, he served in all four divisions in the Mercer Vicinage – Criminal, Civil, Family, and General Equity; as the Presiding Judge for Civil, Family, and General Equity, respectively; and as the vicinage’s Assignment Judge. In 1997, Judge Carchman was elevated to serve in the Appellate Division, where he was a Presiding Judge.

In September 2004, Judge Carchman was appointed the Acting Administrative Director of the Courts, a position he held under three Chief Justices. The Administrative Director oversees policies and procedures in a variety of areas to help ensure the effective and fair operation of New Jersey’s justice system. In carrying out that sensitive task, Judge Carchman inspired confidence in thousands of Judiciary employees – judges and staff alike. He also interacted regularly with the Legislative and Executive Branches.

I had the honor of working closely with Judge Carchman. I benefitted each day from his intellect and integrity, his wise judgment and candor, and his calm, evenhanded approach to issues and people.

After reaching mandatory retirement, Judge Carchman volunteered to serve as a recall judge. Among other assignments, he agreed to mediate older, pending civil matters in the Mercer Vicinage. He helped settle hundreds of complex cases – a notable accomplishment that reflected his ability to work closely with lawyers and litigants in search of a reasonable compromise. Judge Carchman also successfully mediated two intricate matters pending before the Supreme Court.

Among other praiseworthy qualities, Judge Carchman’s record of service reveals his dedication to our State and his ability to represent the best interests of the people. I am grateful he has agreed to serve as the eleventh member of the Legislative Apportionment Commission.”

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