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DIRECTIVE #20-17
(CORRECTED)

TO: Assignment Judges
All Superior Court Judges

FROM: Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D. 

SUBJECT: Limitations on Court Appearances and Appearing as Attorney of Record after Serving as Superior Court Judge in Vicinage

DATE: June 26, 2017

This Directive issued at the direction of the Supreme Court, applies to all Superior Court judges who separate from the Judiciary and return to the practice of law either: (a) without a judicial pension; or, (b) who elect to defer collection of a judicial pension. This is inclusive of all judges who choose to separate from the judiciary at any time during judicial service as well as judges who are not reappointed after an initial term of service. For Superior Court judges who retire and draw a judicial pension, see the Guidelines on the Practice of Law by Retired Judges, as promulgated by Directive #05-08.

Any Superior Court judge falling within the above-specified categories who returns to the practice of law cannot appear in court or appear as the attorney of record for the period of one year after the separation from the judicial position in any case within the vicinage where he/she served as a Superior Court judge. The former judge may take on such assignment, but if a case is venued in the vicinage where the judge served immediately before retirement, the case will be transferred to another vicinage. The one-year period is to be calculated based on the former judge's formal date of separation from the Judiciary. The Court's basis in adopting this policy is to avoid any appearance of conflicts of interests.

cc: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Hon. Carmen Messano, Presiding Judge, Appellate Division
Hon. Jack M. Sabatino, Deputy Presiding Judge, Appellate Division
Hon. Patrick DeAlmeida, Presiding Judge, Tax Court
Steven D. Bonville, Chief of Staff
AOC Directors and Assistant Directors
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