

# News Release



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GLENN A. GRANT

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](http://www.njcourts.gov)

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

For additional information contact:

Meghan M. Carney-Vilela

732-645-4300, ext. 88019

For immediate release:

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## **Middlesex Vicinage Welcomes Judge Kako Yoshimura of Japan**

The Middlesex Vicinage will host Judge Kako Yoshimura of Japan as part of the Judiciary's Japanese Judge Program.

Judge Yoshimura, who has been touring vicinages across the state, will visit the Middlesex Vicinage from Monday, Feb. 6 to Friday, Feb. 24.

The Japanese Judge Program began in 1972 as the result of the efforts of Edward B. McConnell, who was administrative director of the courts at the time, and the Supreme Court of Japan. The program was designed to help Japan's judges between the ages of 25 and 30 gain broader insight into the administration of justice by studying foreign jurisdictions. The Supreme Court of Japan selects one participant each year.

Judge Yoshimura is the 51<sup>st</sup> judge to participate in the program. She is from the Tokyo District Court and was appointed to the bench in 2017. Her primary focus is the jury system. Judge Yoshimura has indicated that she is especially interested in learning about the practices of the plea deal, the jury system, and the prevention of recidivism.

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