



# News Release

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## **Chief Justice Names Judge Sallyanne Floria Assignment Judge of Essex Vicinage**

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner has announced that Superior Court Judge Sallyanne Floria will lead the Essex Vicinage, effective March 1. She will succeed Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello, who is retiring after more than 25 years on the bench and more than 10 years as assignment judge.

“Judge Costello has been a tireless advocate for the Essex Vicinage for the past decade,” said Chief Justice Rabner. “Under her leadership, the vicinage has maintained its strong reputation for fairness, efficiency and service. She retires from a rich career with the Judiciary with our gratitude for her extraordinary service.

“I am confident that Judge Floria and the talented and dedicated judges and staff of the Essex Vicinage will continue to serve the public with distinction. Judge Floria is recognized nationally for her achievements in overseeing the family division and for her work, in particular, in children in court cases. I know that she will bring the same level of dedication and excellence to the efforts of the vicinage overall.”

Judge Floria was first appointed to the bench on July 27, 1998 by Gov. Christie Whitman. She sat in the criminal division of the Essex Vicinage until 2000, when she moved to the family division. She has served as presiding judge of the family division since 2008.

As chair of the Conference of Family Presiding Judges since 2013, Judge Floria is a member of the Judicial Council. She chairs the Children in Court Improvement Committee, of which she has been a member since 2005. She also serves on the Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Education and is a former chair of the Facilities and Securities Committee.

On the national stage, Judge Floria received an achievement award from the National Association of Court Management in 2007 for developing a post-termination project to expedite permanency for children whose parents’ rights have been terminated. She also received the Peter W. Rodino Law Society Professional Excellence Award in 2005.

She has published two articles in national journals: “Aging Out Seminars: Addressing the Needs of Young Adults Leaving Foster Care,” in the Spring 2010 issue of *Juvenile and Family Justice Today*, and “More Good than Harm: Legal Orphans and the New Jersey Post-Termination,” in *The Juvenile and Family Court Journal* in 2008.

Judge Floria is a director of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, serves as vice-chair of the Juvenile Law Advisory Committee and is a member of the Diversity Committee for that organization.

“It is a privilege to be a judge and has been an honor to serve as presiding judge of the family division in Essex.” said Judge Floria. “I am grateful to the Chief Justice for the opportunity to lead the Essex Vicinage and I want to thank Judge Costello for her guidance and leadership over the last 10 years.”

Judge Floria is a graduate of Fordham University and Seton Hall University School of Law. She began her legal career as an assistant prosecutor in the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office before opening a law partnership, Floria and Callori, where she worked in private practice until her appointment to the bench.

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