



# News Release

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## **Chief Justice Names Judge Ernest M. Caposela Assignment Judge of Passaic Vicinage**

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner has announced that Superior Court Judge Ernest M. Caposela will be the new Passaic Vicinage assignment judge, effective July 27. He succeeds Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert Jr., who will reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 on July 27.

“Judge Caposela is a seasoned litigator and gifted judge whose professionalism and dedication to the law are exceptional,” said Chief Justice Rabner. “I have no doubt that he will lead the Passaic Vicinage with distinction and make a lasting contribution to the administration of justice.”

Judge Caposela was nominated to the Superior Court by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman and took the oath of office on June 18, 1999. He was reappointed with tenure in 2006. Upon his initial appointment, he was assigned to the family division in the Passaic Vicinage, where he worked until he was transferred to the criminal bench in 2003. He returned to the family division in 2010, when he was named family presiding judge of the vicinage.

Prior to his judicial appointment, he worked in private practice, providing general legal services but focusing on litigation and criminal defense. He served as the attorney to the City of Passaic Zoning Board, the Paterson Library Board, the Paterson Rent Leveling Board and the Paterson Restoration Corporation.

“I am thrilled beyond words to be able to serve the public in this new capacity,” said Judge Caposela. “As a long-time resident of Passaic County, I believe whole-heartedly that one could not ask for a better group of judges and staff to serve the people who live and work in our cities and towns. I am grateful to be able to work with them to advance the cause of justice.”

Judge Caposela earned his law degree at the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville. He holds a master’s degree in public administration from New York University and a bachelor’s degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Judge Caposela lives in Wayne with his wife and three children.

New Jersey’s Judiciary is divided into 15 vicinages, each headed by an assignment judge who is the chief judicial officer and is responsible for the administration of all court units within the vicinage. As assignment judge of the Passaic Vicinage, Judge Caposela will oversee approximately 455 staff members, as well as 21 judges and 16 municipal courts.

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