



News Release

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Superior Court Judge Thomas W. Sumners Appointed to Appellate Division

Superior Court Judge Thomas W. Sumners will move to the Appellate Division effective Aug. 1, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner announced today.

The Appellate Division of the Superior Court is New Jersey's intermediate appellate court. The 32 Appellate Division judges hear appeals from decisions of the trial courts, the Tax Court and state administrative agencies. The Appellate Division generally decides between 6,000 and 6,500 appeals and about 8,500 motions each year.

Judge Sumners was nominated by Gov. Jon Corzine and was sworn into office on May 27, 2008. He was assigned to the civil bench in the Mercer Vicinage until 2011, when he was transferred to the criminal division.

Judge Sumners attended Lafayette College, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree. He earned his law degree at Rutgers University School of Law-Newark. He began his law career in 1984 as a law clerk in the Essex Vicinage conducting settlement conferences for small claims cases. He then went into private practice, working as an associate in general practice with a focus on education law, personal injury, business agreements, landlord/tenant, and estate matters. He opened his own law office in Trenton in 1990 and continued his general practice until his appointment to the bench.

As an attorney, Judge Sumners served on a number of committees and boards, including the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Client Protection, the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection Board of Trustees, and the District VII Ethics Committee.

"This appellate appointment is the highlight of a legal career I have enjoyed beyond measure. I am delighted to be given this opportunity to work with the esteemed judges of New Jersey's appellate bench. That said, I want to thank my colleagues in Mercer for their welcome and support over the years. I will miss our days together."

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