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Morris/Sussex Vicinage Welcomes Judge Masami Sawano of Japan

The Morris/Sussex Vicinage will host Judge Masami Sawano of Japan this week and next as part of the Judiciary's Japanese Judge Program.

Judge Sawano, who has been touring vicinages across the state, will visit the Morris/Sussex Vicinage from Tuesday, March 29 to Friday, April 1 and return on Thursday, April 7 and Friday, April 8.

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 a participant each year.

Judge Masami Sawano is the 46th judge to participate in the program. She is from the Hiroshima District Court and was appointed to the bench in January 2012. Her primary focus is hearing criminal cases. Judge Sawano has indicated that she is especially interested in learning about best practices for jury selection and how to make court procedures understandable to a jury.

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