

# News Release



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## **New Clerk of New Jersey Supreme Court Announced** *Heather J. Baker Will Replace Mark Neary, who is retiring*

Heather J. Baker will serve as the new clerk of the Supreme Court, effective Nov. 29.

The Supreme Court appointed Baker to replace Mark Neary, who is retiring after 27 years with the Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Heather's caliber to continue the tradition of excellence that the clerk's office has maintained under Mark Neary's exemplary leadership," said Chief Justice Stuart Rabner. "Like her predecessor, Heather is highly regarded for her professionalism, integrity and thorough command of the critical functions of the Supreme Court."

As the Court's chief executive for the administration of Supreme Court operations, the clerk oversees the day-to-day business of the state's high court, including the processing of thousands of motions and petitions for certification presented to the court.

Baker, of Readington Twp., began her career with the Judiciary in 2010 as a law clerk to Justice Jaynee LaVecchia. After working as an attorney for a private firm that specialized in labor and employment matters, Baker returned to the Supreme Court in 2014 as a supervising staff attorney. She has served as the court's chief counsel since July 2016.

"I could not be more proud to serve the Chief and Associate Justices as Clerk of the Supreme Court," Baker said. "I've learned a great deal under the tutelage of Mark Neary and I thank him for his guidance in preparing me for this new position. Over the course of my career, I've developed a great reverence for the Supreme Court's crucial role in our society. I can think of no better way to serve the public than to advance the Court's momentous work with enthusiasm and purpose."

Baker becomes just the sixth Supreme Court clerk in the history of the modern Judiciary. Neary was appointed clerk of the Supreme Court in 2009. He joined the office as a staff attorney in 1991 and became a court executive in 2001.

"We are grateful for Mark's many years of exceptional service to the clerk's office," said Chief Justice Rabner. "He will be missed by all of us on the Supreme Court."

In addition to processing petitions for certification, the Supreme Court Clerk's Office oversees attorney and judicial disciplinary matters before the Court, bar admission matters, attorney certifications, and other applications and petitions for review presented to the Court.

The clerk also oversees the functioning of the Board of Bar Examiners, the Committee on Character, and the Board on Attorney Certification and supervises the director of the Office of Attorney Ethics, the chief counsel to the Disciplinary Review Board and the executive director of the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection.

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