

# News Release



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## **Superior Court Judge Jeanne T. Covert Named Assignment Judge of Burlington Vicinage**

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner today announced that Superior Court Judge Jeanne T. Covert will lead the Burlington Vicinage, effective July 1.

Judge Covert will succeed Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder, who is retiring after 29 years on the bench and more than 10 years as assignment judge.

“Judge Covert’s leadership has been invaluable on a range of important issues, including Criminal Justice Reform and Drug Court,” Chief Justice Rabner said. “The Burlington Vicinage has excelled under the outstanding guidance of Judge Bookbinder. I am confident that will continue under Judge Covert.”

In more than 13 years at the Burlington Vicinage, Judge Covert has served in the family, criminal and civil divisions. She served in the family division for four years after being appointed to the bench. Judge Covert moved to the criminal division in 2009. The following year she was named presiding judge of the criminal division and served in that capacity until she moved in September 2018 to the civil division, where she is presiding judge.

“I am humbled and honored to be named assignment judge, and I want to thank Chief Justice Rabner for allowing me this unique opportunity to further serve the citizens of Burlington County,” Judge Covert said. “I hope to maintain the tradition of excellence set by Judge Bookbinder, and I look forward to working with the incredible staff and judges in the Burlington Vicinage.”

Judge Covert was appointed to the bench by acting Gov. Richard Codey and took the oath of judicial office on July 1, 2005. She was reappointed by Gov. Chris Christie and received tenure on May 25, 2012.

She served as chair of the Judiciary's Drug Court Advisory Committee from 2017 to 2018 and was chair of the Conference of Criminal Presiding Judges from 2012 to 2017. She was a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Salaries and Pensions from 2014 to 2018 and the Court's Speedy Trial Working Group in 2013 in preparation for Criminal Justice Reform.

Prior to her judicial career, Judge Covert worked for four years as an assistant prosecutor in the appellate unit of the Camden County Prosecutor's Office. She was a municipal public defender for Bordentown Township from 1995 to 2001 and was a public defender in Mansfield, Maple Shade and Edgewater Park from 1992 to 1995. She was in private practice with the law firm Call & Covert in Mount Holly from 1989 to 2000 after working four years as an assistant prosecutor in the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office.

A 1985 graduate of Rutgers University School of Law – Camden, Judge Covert earned her bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Delaware.

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