



For immediate release: Sept. 6, 2019

Devang M. Merchant Named Trial Court Administrator for Union Vicinage

Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy of the Union Vicinage announced today the appointment of Devang M. Merchant as trial court administrator, effective Nov. 1.

Merchant started with the Judiciary in June 2013 as the vicinage's jury manager. Since 2015, he has served as the operations division manager.

"Devang has been a great asset to the Union Vicinage and I am confident he will continue to serve the public and Judiciary employees with the same dedication in his new role," said Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts.

Before joining the Judiciary in 2013, Merchant held senior management positions in the private sector.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

"I am honored to be appointed to the role of trial court administrator," Merchant said. "I look forward to serving the public in this new role alongside the judges and staff of Union Vicinage."

Merchant succeeds James Agro, who is retiring after 15 years with the Judiciary.

"Jim's career reflects the kind of dedication and commitment that is expected of all our employees," Judge Grant said. "His tremendous investment and belief in our Judiciary is something we will miss."

Merchant will work closely with Judge Cassidy and vicinage leadership to manage a court operation that includes 27 judges and approximately 454 staff.

“Devang’s extensive management experience both in the private sector as well as here in Union County will serve him well in assisting in the management of our vicinage,” Judge Cassidy said. “He has demonstrated strong leadership capabilities in his work on several important projects, including the new family division courthouse.”

The trial court administrator, who is appointed by the administrative director of the courts, is the highest ranking staff executive in the vicinage in charge of all court operations, including financial management, human resources, information systems, case coordination, case flow management, probation services, jury utilization, facilities, equipment, maintenance, records management and statistical analysis.

Agro has served as trial court administrator since August 2015.

“Jim’s departure will leave a void in our courthouse family,” Judge Cassidy said. “His expertise in various matters as well as his capable and calm demeanor has put our vicinage on solid footing. He has earned the respect of our entire management team as well as with our judges.”

#