

Swearing-In Ceremonies Held for Newly Elected Judges



Pictured above from left: Justice Duffy, Justice Ecker, Judge Warhit, Administrative Judge Alan D. Scheinkman, Judge Greenwald, and Judge Schauer.

Amid ceremonies befitting the dignity of the judiciary, six judges took the oath of office this past January. Supreme Court Justices Colleen D. Duffy and Lawrence H. Ecker were sworn in at a Westchester County ceremony, presided over by Administrative Judge Alan Scheinkman. Supreme Court Justice Linda Christopher was sworn in at a Rockland County ceremony that was presided over by Justice Margaret Garvey.

Also, Hon. Barry E. Warhit took the oath as Judge of Westchester County Court and Hon. Hal B. Greenwald of Yonkers and Hon. Michelle I. Schauer of Ossining were inducted as judges of Westchester Family Court.

Justice Duffy was first appointed to the position a year ago by Governor Paterson. She previously served as a City Court Judge in Mount Vernon and as a Westchester Family Court Judge. During her tenure in the Family Court, she handled the largest volume of cases in the 9th Judicial District. Prior to her judicial service, Justice Duffy was a Mount Vernon City Councilwoman. She is currently sitting in Bronx Supreme Court (she has been temporarily "loaned" to the Bronx due to the heavy demand) handling felony criminal trials.

Justice Ecker was also appointed to State Supreme Court by Governor Paterson last year. For 20 years he served as Irvington Village Court Judge and for 36 years he was in private practice. Justice Ecker has a long history of community involvement, including chair of the Westchester County Board of Ethics, Board of Trustees of St. John Riverside Hospital, and past president of the Yonkers Lawyers Association and the Westchester County Magistrates Association. He is currently sitting in Orange County.

Swearing-In Ceremonies Held for Newly Elected Judges (continued)

Before being elected to the Supreme Court, **Justice Christopher** was a Family Court Judge in Rockland County since 2005. She was appointed Acting Supreme Court Justice and opened the Integrated Domestic Violence Court in Rockland in 2006, which she presided over until last December. She provided training on issues of domestic violence to judges throughout the state and her IDV court served as a model for others. Justice Christopher is currently assigned to the Westchester Matrimonial Part.

Judge Warhit has been sitting as County Court Judge since last May, when he was appointed by Governor Paterson to fill a vacancy. Previously, in private practice, he was one of the most active felony criminal trial lawyers in Westchester. He also served four consecutive terms as Acting Village Justice of Tarrytown and was an Assistant District Attorney in New York County.

Judge Greenwald was elected to Family Court after a 21 year history in private practice focusing on all matters involving Family Court issues. His experience representing all parties in family crisis includes, but is not limited to, cases involving child abuse and neglect, PINS, juvenile delinquency, child support, and custody and visitation.

Judge Schauer was elected to Family Court after a long history in the court system. She spent 11 years as a court attorney referee in Westchester Family Court's Abuse and Neglect Permanency Part working with children and families. Prior to that she was court attorney to a Court of Appeals justice and an Appellate Division justice. She was also a litigator in private practice.



Pictured above: Justice Christopher (eighth from left) at her swearing in ceremony in Rockland County.

Newly Inducted



Judge Forman (at left) Dutchess County Court (Acting Supreme Court Justice)

Judge Forman, elected this past November, had served as a Family Court Judge since 1999. During that time he supervised two Treatment Courts (Family and Youth) in addition to serving as an Acting Supreme Court Justice. Prior to his election to Family Court, he served as Court Attorney to Hon. Thomas J. Dolan in County Court. Judge Forman is pictured here with his staff: Kathy McQuade (Probation Dept.), Betty Yacab, Denise Watson and Viola Cummings.

Judge Greller (at right) Dutchess County Court

Judge Stephen Greller, also elected in November, previously served as LaGrange Town Justice, Acting Fishkill Village Justice, and as the Acting City Court Judge of the city of Poughkeepsie. Judge Greller is pictured here with his staff: Derek Hogg, Wayne Witherwax and Kathryn Hulsair.



Judge Gaffney (at left) Yonkers City Court

Judge Edward Gaffney was recently elected as Yonkers City Court Judge. He formerly was the Principal Law Clerk to the Hon. Margaret Garvey in Rockland County Supreme Court.



Judge Kettner (at right) New Rochelle City Court

Judge Kettner is the first elected female judge in New Rochelle's history. An attorney for 20 years, she has broad criminal and civil experience in all New York Courts and was also a New York Supreme Court Evaluator.



Judge Mora (at left) Poughkeepsie City Court

Frank M. Mora was appointed to Poughkeepsie City Court on November 23, 2010, by Mayor John C. Tkazyik. His ten-year term began on January 1, 2011. Previously, in private practice, he appeared regularly in local justice courts, including Poughkeepsie City Court. Judge Mora is pictured here with his staff: Jean Marie Jicha, Cheryl Jolie, Sheryl Karpf, Lori Kiernan and Linda Murray.