



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge**

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New Administrative Judge Named in Third Judicial District

ALBANY, NEW YORK—Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks today announced the appointment of Hon. Gerald W. Connolly as Administrative Judge for the State's Third Judicial District. The appointment was made with the approval of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore after consultation with Presiding Justice Elizabeth A. Garry of the Appellate Division, Third Department.

In his new role, Judge Connolly will oversee trial court operations within the Third Judicial District, which encompasses Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster counties. He will succeed Hon. Thomas A. Breslin, who is retiring following a distinguished judicial career.

In announcing the appointment, Judge Marks said, "A skilled jurist with extensive knowledge of the law and court operations, Judge Connolly possesses the vision, problem-solving abilities and adaptability to effectively lead the District in this time of unprecedented challenges and rapidly evolving changes. I look forward to working with him as we continue to seek innovative solutions in addressing the difficulties posed by Covid-19, setting and achieving goals to meet the justice needs of those served by the Third Judicial District while protecting the health and safety of those who work in and use the District's trial courts."

Judge Connolly was appointed to the Court of Claims in 2007 and designated an acting Supreme Court Justice, handling a range of cases, including medical malpractice, personal injury, election law, matrimonial, criminal and guardianship matters. He was reappointed to the Court of Claims in 2014. He has on occasion served as the Third Judicial District's acting Administrative Judge, issuing administrative orders, participating on interview panels and carrying out other administrative duties. Since 2016, he has presided over Albany County's felony drug court.

Prior to becoming a judge, he served as senior assistant counsel under then Governor Pataki. Previously, he was a deputy inspector general for the New York State Office of the Inspector General and before that served as an assistant attorney general in the Office of the New York State Attorney General's Litigation Bureau. He began his legal career as an assistant district attorney in Westchester County. He is a Fordham University School of Law graduate.

In tribute to outgoing Administrative Judge Breslin, Judge Marks said, "We are deeply indebted to Judge Breslin for his successful leadership of the Third Judicial District over the past six years—including his deft navigation of the multiple challenges presented by the COVID pandemic—as well as for his many contributions throughout his outstanding, 30-year judicial tenure. We wish him the very best as he embarks on this next phase of life."

Judge Connolly's appointment will take effect November 2, 2020.

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