

## **Hon. James D. Pagones (Ret.)**

Hon. James D. Pagones is a retired judge of the Unified Court System having enjoyed a judicial career that spanned 26 years. Prior to his retirement in 2018, Judge Pagones served for 20 years as Dutchess Surrogate and Acting Justice of the Supreme Court serving in the trial and MHL Article 81 guardianship parts. He also previously served in Dutchess County as a Family Court Judge and acting County Court Judge.

Prior to his tenure on the bench, Judge Pagones served in private practice and was twice elected to serve as a Dutchess County Legislator. Judge Pagones was also employed as the confidential law clerk to the Hon. James D. Benson, Dutchess Surrogate and AJSC.

Judge Pagones currently serves as a voting member of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics and chairs the Judicial Campaign Ethics Subcommittee. He is also active in various other professional and civic organizations, including serving as past president and member of the Surrogate's Court Judges Association, member of the Editorial Board, Warren's Heaton on Surrogate's Court Practice, and member of the Dutchess County Bar Association.

Judge Pagones earned his B.A. degree in History from Virginia Military Institute, and his Juris Doctorate from Western New England University.