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Governor Baker Nominates Three to Supreme Judicial Court
Historic opportunity elevates three highly-qualified judges to serve as SJC Associate Justices

BOSTON – In an historic and unprecedented opportunity to uphold the tradition of excellence of the Commonwealth’s highest court, Governor Charlie Baker today nominated Superior Court Justices Kimberly Budd, Frank Gaziano and David Lowy to serve as Associate Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court.

“These distinguished and well respected judges will bring nearly a century of combined experience to the Supreme Judicial Court, having dealt with the most complicated civil and criminal cases before the courts of the Commonwealth,” said Governor Baker. “I thank the Supreme Judicial Court Nominating Commission, my Chief Legal Counsel Lon Povich and Sharon Casey, the Executive Director of the Judicial Nominating Commission, for their diligent and tireless work in recommending a diverse group of candidates of the highest caliber and character, and we also wish the departing justices well in their retirement and future endeavors. Our legal system and the citizens of Massachusetts will be served well by the wealth of trial experience, temperament and sense of justice brought to the bench by these nominees.”

The nominees and their families joined Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito for a formal announcement today at the State House. The nominees, if confirmed, will replace Justice Francis Spina, Justice Robert Cordy and Justice Fernande Duffy who announced their retirements earlier this year.
“We have the utmost confidence these jurists will serve the Commonwealth’s highest court with distinction for years to come,” said Lt. Governor Polito. “All three have set themselves apart by their keen intellect, respectful demeanor and dedication to fairness in the judicial system. We look forward to the Governor’s Council’s consideration of our nominees and on behalf of the Commonwealth, thank Justices Spina, Cordy and Duffly for their service.”

The Supreme Judicial Court is the Commonwealth's highest appellate court, consisting of the Chief Justice and six Associate Justices. The seven Justices hear appeals on a broad range of criminal and civil cases from September through May and issue written opinions that are posted online.

In February, Governor Baker named a statewide 12-member Supreme Judicial Nominating Commission (SJC-NC) to recruit, screen and recommend applicants to fill an unprecedented number of upcoming vacancies on the Commonwealth’s highest court. All judicial nominations are subject to the advice and consent of the Governor’s Council.

For bios and pictures of the nominees, click here.

For more information about the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, visit http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/sjc/.

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