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Governor Baker Makes Two Judicial Nominations

BOSTON – Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated Mark A. Goldstein to the Worcester District Court, and Mark C. Gildea to the Superior Court. Goldstein and Gildea both have decades of experience working directly for Massachusetts cities and towns as counsel, as well as in private practice.

“Throughout their careers these attorneys have been dedicated not only to the law, but to their communities in the Commonwealth,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “I am pleased to nominate these two highly qualified attorneys for review by the Governor’s Council.”

“Both Mark Goldstein and Mark Gildea have nearly sixty years of combined experience serving their communities as attorneys and citizens,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “I am confident, should they be confirmed, that their knowledge of the law, objectivity, temperament and legal acumen will serve the Commonwealth and their respective courts well.

The Superior Court is a statewide court of general jurisdiction - handling both criminal and civil actions. The court’s 82 justices sit in 20 courthouses in all 14 counties of the Commonwealth. The Superior Court has original jurisdiction in civil actions over $25,000, and in matters where equitable relief is sought. It also has original jurisdiction in actions including labor disputes where injunctive relief is sought, has exclusive authority to convene medical malpractice tribunals, has appellate jurisdiction over certain administrative proceedings, and may hold sittings...
for naturalization in any city or town. The court has exclusive original jurisdiction of first degree murder cases and original jurisdiction of all other crimes.

For more information about the Superior Court, visit http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/sc/

The District Court hears a wide range of criminal, civil, housing, juvenile, mental health, and other types of cases. District Court criminal jurisdiction extends to all felonies punishable by a sentence up to five years, and many other specific felonies with greater potential penalties; all misdemeanors; and all violations of city and town ordinances and by-laws. In civil matters, District Court judges conduct both jury and jury-waived trials, and determine with finality any matter in which the likelihood of recovery does not exceed $25,000. The District Court also tries small claims involving up to $7,000 (initially tried to a magistrate, with a defense right of appeal either to a judge or to a jury). The District Court's civil jurisdiction also includes many specialized proceedings, including abuse prevention restraining orders and civil motor vehicle infractions (tried initially to a magistrate, with right of appeal to a judge).

For more information about the District Court, visit http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/dc/

Judicial nominations are subject to the advice and consent of the Governor’s Council. Applicants for judicial openings are reviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and recommended to the governor. Governor Baker established the JNC in February, 2015 pursuant to Executive Order 558, a non-partisan, non-political Commission composed of volunteers from a cross-section of the Commonwealth’s diverse population to screen judicial applications. Twenty-one members were later appointed to the JNC in April, 2015.

**About Mark A. Goldstein**

Mark Goldstein currently operates his own law practice out of Gardner representing among others, regional transit, housing and planning agencies. Mr. Goldstein also serves as the Town Counsel to the Town of Athol, and as the Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Fitchburg. He teaches law at Mount Wachusett Community College focused on Business Law, Litigation, Estates, Real Estate Law, Legal Seminar, and Insurance Law. Mr. Goldstein graduated with a B.A. from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1979, and received his Masters of City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania in 1982. He received his J.D. from the Western New England College School of Law in 1991. He and his family reside in Gardner.

**About Mark C. Gildea**
Mark Gildea is currently an attorney and principal of the law firm Clark, Balboni, & Gildea with offices in Bridgewater and Mashpee, concentrating in civil litigation, including insurance defense, real estate, and municipal law. Mr. Gildea has served as Attorney for the Town of Bridgewater for over twenty-five years, Legislative Counsel to the City of Brockton for nearly thirty years, and Attorney for the County of Plymouth for fifteen years. Mr. Gildea also donates a great deal of time to pro-bono work. Mr. Gildea graduated from Georgetown University in 1983 with an A.B. in Government, and received his J.D. from Suffolk University School of Law in 1987. He, his wife, and five children reside in Bridgewater.

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