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Governor Baker Nominates Robert T. Santaniello to Springfield District Court and Jennifer Tyne to Pittsfield District Court as Associate Justices

BOSTON— Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated Robert T. Santaniello and Jennifer Tyne to serve as Associate Justices of the District Court in Western Massachusetts. Santaniello and Tyne each have over 20 years of district court experience. Robert Santaniello is a sole practitioner in Springfield. Jennifer Tyne is the District Court Supervisor for the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Pittsfield.

“Robert Santaniello and Jennifer Tyne will each bring professional expertise to the District Courts of Western Massachusetts. Attorney Santaniello’s balance of civil and criminal work and Attorney Tynes’ time as public counsel, a private practitioner and prosecutor will allow them both to have a positive impact from the bench in their communities,” said Governor Baker. “I am pleased to submit their names for the Governor’s Council’s advice and consent.”

“Both Attorneys Santaniello and Tyne have broad knowledge of the law as well as an understanding of the needs of and services available to those appearing before them,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “These individuals have contributed significantly to their communities through pro-bono, charity and human service work, and will be valuable additions to the bench.”

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. The District Court is located in 62 courts across the Commonwealth.


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 Robert T. Santaniello**
Robert T. Santaniello is the owner and operator of the law office Santaniello & Santaniello LLC. He is engaged in full-time legal practice with concentrations in criminal defense, personal injury, real estate, land use, small business contracts & transactions and public pension & retirement law. In the past, he has worked as an associate at Coolidge & Lauro as well as Santaniello, Posnik & Basile, P.C. in Springfield. Santaniello also works with the Read-A-Loud Program, has been a local youth hockey, baseball and soccer coach and served for more than 15 years on the PVTA American with Disabilities Act Appeals Board. Santaniello attended Bentley College where he played on the Bentley Men’s Varsity Ice Hockey Team, before graduating from Western New England College School of Law in 1991. Santaniello resides in Longmeadow with his wife, Susan, and 3 sons, Nick, Joe and Sam.

**About Jennifer Tyne**
Jennifer Tyne is the District Court Supervisor for the Pittsfield Public Defender Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services. She serves as criminal trial counsel for indigent clients in both District and Superior Court in Berkshire County. She also supervises and provides ongoing training to District Court public defenders. A member of Massachusetts Bar since 1995, Jennifer Tyne has worked as an Assistant District Attorney in Berkshire County, as a solo practitioner concentrating in criminal defense, as an Elder Law and real estate attorney at Stavisky & Kelly, and as Appellate counsel for indigent defendants in criminal cases. Tyne has taught paralegal, criminal justice, and research and writing courses at Mildred Elley Business School. Tyne has also served as a foster parent for the Department of Children and Families. She graduated from Smith College and Northeastern University School of
Law. She lives in Pittsfield with her family.

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