



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 6, 2018

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**Governor Baker Nominates Jane D. Prince and John P. McKenna to
the District Court**

BOSTON – Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated Jane D. Prince to the position of Associate Justice of the Newburyport District Court and John P. McKenna to the position of Associate Justice of the Westfield District Court.

“Attorneys Prince and McKenna have practiced in both the private and public sectors, and have litigation experience across a wide array of legal issues,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “Pending the Governor’s Council review and approval, I am confident they will be distinguished additions to the District Court bench.”

“These accomplished individuals have served as prosecutors and criminal defense counsel and bring years of experience to the bench,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “If confirmed, I am confident that they will serve the Commonwealth with fairness and justice.”

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.

For more information about the District Court, visit their [homepage](#).

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 Jane Prince

Attorney Prince is currently of counsel with the Law Firm of Goddard, Scuteri and Delaney in Salem, MA. She has been in private practice since 2013 primarily focusing on criminal defense trial and appellate work. In addition, Attorney Prince is an active volunteer with the Lynn District Court Small Claims Mediation Program. Prior to 2013, she served as Supervising District Attorney at the Essex County District Attorney's Office. Before joining the prosecutor's office in 2005, she served for a year as a Law Clerk to the Justices in the Superior Court of Massachusetts where she assisted in all phases of civil and criminal litigation. She has a background in business administration having spent her early career managing operations for a national clothing manufacturer and researching macroeconomic trends for Sumitomo Bank. Attorney Prince received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Georgetown University and her Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School. She is a member of the Essex County Bar Administration, the Women's Bar Administration and the North Shore Women's Lawyers Association. Attorney Prince currently resides in South Hamilton, MA with her family.

About John McKenna

With over two decades of serving the law, Attorney McKenna currently works at his own private practice, representing clients in criminal defense, immigration and civil litigation matters. He also serves as a Bar Advocate Attorney at Hampden and Hampshire County Bar Advocates. Prior to his current role, Attorney McKenna worked as Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Springfield Law Department with a focus on civil litigation. He also served the federal government as Congressional Counsel to U.S. Congressman Richard Neal. Attorney McKenna has five years of experience serving the Commonwealth as Assistant District Attorney for the Hampden County District Attorney's Office. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Assumption College and his Juris Doctor from the New England School of Law. He is also a Bench Bar Committee Chair for the Eastern Hampshire County District Court. Attorney McKenna lives in Longmeadow with his family and is active in his local community as a member of the Board of Directors and coach for the Springfield Capitals Hockey Association and a youth lacrosse coach.

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