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Governor



KARYN POLITO
Lt. Governor

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Governor Baker Nominates The Honorable Kathryn E. Hand of Osterville as Associate Justice of the Appeals Court

BOSTON – Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated the Honorable Kathryn E. Hand of Osterville to the position of Associate Justice of the Appeals Court. Justice Hand has 24 years of legal experience, including 13 years as Justice on the District Court. Since 2013, Hand has been a Regional Administrative Justice of Region 1 and has served as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the District Court, Southern Division and the Barnstable District Court since 2015.

Hand is being nominated for the seat vacated by the Honorable Joseph A. Trainor. Governor William Weld appointed Justice Trainor to the Juvenile Court in 1997 and Governor Jane Swift named him to the Appeals Court in 2001.

“Justice Hand’s courtroom and appellate experience honed over decades of private practice and on the District Court bench will serve all parties that appear before the Appeals Court well,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “I am pleased to submit this nominee to the Governor’s Council for their advice and consent.”

“Justice Hand is a well-qualified Justice and has served on numerous court committees in the judicial community over the years,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “I am confident that she will serve the Appeals Court with distinction, if confirmed.”

The Massachusetts Appeals Court is a court of general appellate jurisdiction. The justices review decisions that trial judges from the several Departments of the Trial Court have already made in many different kinds of cases. The Appeals Court also has jurisdiction over appeals from final decisions of three State agencies: the Appellate Tax Board, the Industrial Accident Board and the Commonwealth Employment Relations Board. The Appeals Court has twenty-five statutory justices, including the chief justice. The Massachusetts Appeals Court mission is a commitment to: doing justice under the law by

rendering thoughtful, well-reasoned appellate decisions in a timely and efficient manner, treating all those who come before the court fairly and impartially.

For more information about the Appeals Court, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/appeals-court>.

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 Kathryn E. Hand:

Justice Kathryn E. Hand began her legal career as an attorney at the firm Esdaile, Barrett & Esdaile in 1994 before becoming Assistant District Attorney in the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office in 1995. In 1996, Hand returned to Esdaile, Barrett & Esdaile where she focused on civil litigation in the Massachusetts Superior Court and the Federal District Court relating to medical malpractice, class action litigation, products liability and contract disputes. In 2006, Hand was appointed to the Massachusetts Trial Court by Governor Romney. As Justice on the Massachusetts Trial Court, Hand has served as a member of the District Court Civil Proceedings Committee since 2010, and served as a Supreme Judicial Court Access to Justice Commissioner from 2010 until 2017. Since 2013, Hand has been a Regional Administrative Justice of Region 1, managing 24 judges and nine District Court divisions. Hand has served as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the District Court, Southern Division and the Barnstable District Court since 2015, in addition to serving on the Supreme Judicial Court Standing Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure. Since 2017, Hand has led the 13-member District Court Debt Collection Working Group. She currently is a New Judge Mentor in the Trial Court Judicial Mentoring Program, providing guidance to newly appointed District Court judges. Justice Hand earned her B.A. in English and American Literature and Language from Harvard University in 1991 and her J.D. from Boston College Law School in 1994.

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