Governor Baker Nominates Jonathan J. Kane as Associate Justice of the Housing Court

BOSTON – Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated Jonathan J. Kane of Amherst to the position of Associate Justice of the Housing Court. Attorney Kane has nearly three decades of extensive legal and housing court experience and is currently a Co-Managing Partner of Fierst, Kane & Bloomberg LLP in Northampton.

“Attorney Kane’s legal experience, from litigation to transactional law, and his tenure on the Housing Court Bench Bar Committee makes him well qualified for this position,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “I am pleased to submit his name to the Governor’s Council for their advice and consent.”

“Attorney Kane has demonstrated a command for landlord-tenant law, as well as passion for the fair administration of justice,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “If confirmed, I am confident that he will serve with distinction.”

The Housing Court oversees civil and criminal actions that involve the health, safety, or welfare of homeowners or those who live in residential housing. The courts hear eviction cases, small claims cases, civil action suits, and other cases related to residential housing. Led by Chief Justice Timothy F. Sullivan, the Housing Court has 15 statutory judges that sit across the Court’s five divisions which include the Central, Eastern, Northeast, Southeast and Western Divisions. The Housing Court was granted statewide jurisdiction in 2017.

For more information about the Housing Court, please 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 Jonathan J. Kane:

Attorney Jonathan Kane is co-Managing Partner of Fierst, Kane & Bloomberg LLP in Northampton. Attorney Kane joined the firm in 2001. Attorney Kane began his legal career as an Associate at the firm Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer, PC in Boston in 1991. After completing the intensive two-year training program, Attorney Kane joined the Springfield-based firm Bulkley, Richardson & Gelines in 1993 as an Associate specializing in civil litigation and administrative law. In January 1995, Attorney Kane returned to Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer in Hartford, Connecticut as an Associate in the litigation department where he served until 2000. From 2009 to 2014, Attorney Kane served as the Chair of the Western Division Housing Court Bench Bar Committee, and since 2014, Attorney Kane has been the Chair of the Western Division’s Court Procedures Subcommittee. Attorney Kane currently serves on the statewide Lawyer-for-a-Day Program committee. Attorney Kane has participated as a faculty member on numerous panels and trainings on the subject of landlord/tenant law. Aside from his legal responsibilities, Kane is the President of Amherst Baseball, Inc. and serves on the Amherst Center Recreation Working Group. Attorney Kane earned his B.A. in Political Science from Haverford College in 1987 and his J.D. from Boston College Law School, cum laude, in 1991, where he was on the editorial staff of the Boston College Law Review.

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