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in Governor's Office

Main Menu

- Home
- Press Office
- Press Releases
- Governor Patrick Announces Juvenile Court Nominations

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## GOVERNOR PATRICK NOMINATES TWO EXPERIENCED ATTORNEYS TO THE JUVENILE COURT BENCH

BOSTON – Friday, May 23, 2014 – Governor Deval Patrick today announced two judicial nominations: Kerry A. Ahern as Associate Justice of the Juvenile Court, Essex County Division; and Helen A. Brown Bryant as Associate Justice of the Juvenile Court, Suffolk County Division.

"I am very pleased to nominate these highly qualified attorneys to the Juvenile Court bench," said Governor Patrick. "They have the expertise and the compassion to excel

in these challenging and important positions, and I thank them for their willingness to serve the Commonwealth as members of the judiciary.”

Kerry A. Ahern has maintained a sole practice in Lowell since 2008, focusing on Juvenile and District Court criminal and civil litigation. She was an Assistant District Attorney in Middlesex County from 1994 to 2008, where she served as Supervisor of the Juvenile Court Division, Director of the District Courts and Deputy Director of the Superior Court, Lowell Region. Ahern is a graduate of University of Massachusetts, Lowell (B.A., 1991) and New England School of Law (J.D., 1994). She resides in Lowell. Ahern is slated to fill the vacancy on the Juvenile Court created by the upcoming retirement of The Honorable Michael F. Edgerton.

Helen A. Brown Bryant maintains an active litigation practice in Cambridge, with a significant percentage of her time devoted to representing indigent clients in civil proceedings in Juvenile and Probate and Family Courts. Earlier in her practice, she also represented criminal defendants in District Court. Prior to opening her practice in 1993, Bryant served as a staff attorney at the Office of Bar Counsel and as a supervising attorney at the Massachusetts Advocacy Center (now known as Massachusetts Advocates for Children). She left her private practice from 2007 to 2009 to serve as an attorney at the Disability Law Center in Boston. Bryant’s training and work prior to law school was in special education and she is fluent in American Sign Language. She is a graduate of MacMurray College (B.S., 1978) and Howard University School of Law (J.D. 1984). Bryant resides in Cambridge. If confirmed, she will fill the vacancy on the Juvenile Court to be created by the upcoming retirement of The Honorable Leslie E. Harris.

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