



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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PRESS RELEASE

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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOSTON, MA (August 24, 2012) – The Commission on Judicial Conduct has selected Attorney Howard V. Neff, III to serve as its Executive Director. Neff replaces former Executive Director Gillian E. Pearson, who retired from the Commission earlier this month after serving the Commission for over twenty-four years.

Since 2006, Neff has served as Staff Attorney and Supervising Staff Attorney for the Commission. Prior to joining the Commission in 2006, Neff worked in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. As an Assistant District Attorney, his work included the prosecution of major crimes including armed robbery, drug distribution and child sexual abuse, representing the Commonwealth in numerous Superior and District Court jury trials. From 2000 to 2003, Neff served as the Supervising Assistant District Attorney in the Brighton Division of the Boston Municipal Court. From 2003 to 2006, Neff worked in the Child Abuse Unit of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Neff also served as an Assistant District Attorney in Norfolk County from 1999 to 2000.

He holds a BA in Economics from the University of Connecticut, a MS in Mass Communications from Boston University School of Communications and a JD from Boston University School of Law.

The Commission on Judicial Conduct is established and governed by Mass. G. L. c. 211C. In accord with the mandate of that statute, the Commission's mission is to enforce standards of judicial conduct for Massachusetts state judges in a manner that, while respecting judicial independence, promotes public confidence in the judiciary and preserves the integrity of the judicial process. The Commission serves as the forum for complaints alleging misconduct by judges both on and off the bench, and for allegations of mental or physical disability affecting a judge's performance. The Commission is committed to performing this function in full accord with all procedural and substantive requirements of its governing statute and rules. The Executive Director, who reports to the nine-member Commission, receives and screens complaints of misconduct or disability against state judges. The Executive Director supervises



the investigation of complaints, recommends dispositions and maintains records, among other duties.

For further information regarding the Commission, please visit the Commission's website: www.mass.gov/cjc.

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