

The Review



Volume 4, Issue 2

THE APPEALS COURT WELCOMED **TWO NEW JUSTICES** THIS SPRING



Justice Robert A. Brennan received his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his Juris Doctor from Boston University School of Law.

Justice Brennan began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney with the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office, focusing on both domestic violence and gang-related crimes. From there he joined the firm Gilman, McLaughlin & Hanrahan as a Litigation Associate. Thereafter, Justice Brennan joined the Essex County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney where he was named Deputy Chief of the Sexual

Assault Unit. In 2002, Justice Brennan was appointed Associate Justice of the District Court. While serving as Justice of the District Court he was appointed as Regional Administrative Justice and also served as First Justice in the Salem District Court.

In 2012 Justice Brennan started as the lead District Court judge in the High-Risk

Opportunity Probation with Enforcement – Massachusetts Offender Recidivism Reduction (HOPE-MORR) pilot program, where probationers at high risk of reoffending can go under more intense supervision in exchange for lesser penalties for probation violations. He then oversaw the expansion of the program to Chelsea District Court, Worcester District Court, and all District Court divisions within Essex County. Outside of the law, Justice Brennan coached softball and basketball and taught Constitutional Interpretations of Criminal Procedure at North Shore Community College.

Justice Brennan was appointed to the Massachusetts Appeals Court by Governor Charles Baker in March of 2022.

Justice Andrew M. D'Angelo received his bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross and his Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School.

Justice D'Angelo began his legal career as a criminal defense attorney with the Boston law firm of Carney & Bassil representing clients in District, Superior, and Federal courts. He was named managing partner of the law firm in 2003. Justice D'Angelo was nominated to the District Court in 2006 and was active in many committees within the Trial Court. He served as Chairperson of the District Court Technology Committee and the Trial Court Electronic Warrant Committee, as well as Co-Chairperson of the Trial Court Virtual Evidence Committee. Justice D'Angelo also served as an adjunct faculty member at Suffolk University Law School teaching Trial Evidence and Intensive Trial Advocacy.



Outside of the law, Justice D'Angelo was president of the Norfolk-Medfield-Millis Pop Warner program for nearly ten years and is a coach with Massachusetts Elite Football. Justice D'Angelo was appointed to the Massachusetts Appeals Court by Governor Charles Baker in April of 2022.

THE APPEALS COURT CONDUCTS ITS SPRING **OFF-SITE SITTINGS**



Photo of Worcester Sitting on Law Day: Pictured from left to right are Justice Mary T. Sullivan, Justice Ariane Vuono, and Justice James Lemire. (Photo courtesy of Court Officer Ron Spaddy)



Photo of Barnstable Sitting: Pictured on bench from left to right are Justice C. Jeffrey Kinder, Justice James R. Milkey, and Justice James Lemire. (Photo courtesy of Court Officer Ron Spaddy)

As part of a continuing effort to broaden public awareness, understanding, and accessibility of the Massachusetts court system, the Appeals Court conducted a record number of off-site sittings during the spring of 2022. The sittings took place at the following locations:

April 6, 2022, at **New England Law - Boston** (Justices Blake, Neyman, and Lemire).

April 11, 2022, at **Boston University School of Law** (Chief Justice Green and Justices Wolohojian and Henry).

April 13, 2022, at **Suffolk University Law School** (Justices Meade, Englander, and Grant).

May 2, 2022, at the **Worcester Justice Center** (Justices Vuono, Sullivan, and Lemire).

June 8, 2022, at **Barnstable Superior Court** (Justices Milkey, Kinder, and Lemire).

Two Appeals Court court officers and a representative from the Clerk's Office also attended and assisted at each of the off-site sittings. At the law schools, students and faculty were in attendance, while members of the bar and the public attended the Superior Court sittings in Worcester and Barnstable. Several of the sessions included a question and answer period with the justices after the oral arguments were completed.

The remaining Appeals Court Justices continued to hear oral arguments in cases on appeal at the John Adams Courthouse during those months.

THE APPEALS COURT WELCOMES NEW **CHIEF STAFF ATTORNEY** **CASEY SILVIA**

Attorney Casey Silvia joined the Appeals Court this spring as our new Chief Staff Attorney. Casey came to us from the Middlesex District Attorney's Office where, beginning in 2006, she had served as Assistant District Attorney, Senior Appellate Counsel, Deputy Chief of Appeals and Training, and Search Warrant Team Captain. Casey had also previously worked as Prosecuting Counsel for the Division of Professional Licensure and Clerk to the Justices of the Superior Court. Casey is a graduate of Northeastern University and Seton Hall School of Law.



JUSTICES REPRESENT DURING THE ABA'S ANNUAL **JUDICIAL OUTREACH INITIATIVE**

The ABA Judicial Division's Judicial Outreach Network Committee urged active and retired judges to invite their communities to their courthouses and to go out into



their communities during National Judicial Outreach Month (March) to meet with the public, in person or virtually, and talk about the Rule of Law and the work courts do every day.

Throughout the month of March, several Appeals Court Justices participated in outreach events to advance this important initiative. Judge Amy Blake presented to the Boxford Council on Aging and Judge Vickie Henry presented to the Medford Council on Aging. Judge Gregory Massing was a guest speaker at the Nauset

Regional High School and also judged a moot court competition at New England Law Boston.

TRANSLATION PROJECT IMPROVES ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

The translation project aims to increase access to justice for all people having business with the Appeals Court by making it easier for non-English speaking pro se litigants to file pleadings and understand appellate procedure. The Appeals Court Clerk's Office, with the assistance of the Office of Language Access (OLA), identified the commonly used forms and guides and the most frequently used non-English languages. Thus far, the OLA has translated over ninety documents. When the project is finished, the Appeals Court website will have 140 documents available in five different non-English languages.

To further assist litigants, the project team is converting the forms to fillable pdf format to increase the ease with which the forms can be completed. Knowing that many pro se litigants do not know how to write a motion, the project team created a modified guided interview format to complete the fillable pdf. Cues guide the litigant through different sections to produce a motion that is ready to file. For example, one form has the statement, "This motion raises the following questions of law:" (the Spanish form says, "Esta moción presenta las siguientes cuestiones de derecho:"), followed by a text box where the litigant can insert their statement. By following the cues, the filer will have drafted a motion that is ready to file and compliant with the Rules of Appellate Procedure. To see the available forms, please follow this link:

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/appeals-court-forms>.

In the early stages of an appeal, pro se litigants often have a friend or relative with no legal experience translate and help them file a motion. A translator from OLA is requested only after the case has an oral argument scheduled. Adding forms and guides in a pro se litigant's primary language will increase access to justice for non-English speaking members of our community.

APPEALS COURT JUDGES' EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE RETURNS AFTER A TWO- YEAR DELAY



After postponing for two consecutive years due to the pandemic, the Appeals Court was finally able to meet in person for their annual Judges' Educational Conference. This year the Conference was held at the Chatham Bars Inn on Cape Cod in mid-May. Some of the topics on the agenda for the two-day conference included jury issues; diversity, equity, and inclusion; child welfare; post-conviction motion practice; scientific evidence and technology in criminal cases; zoning, standing, and current trends in Land Court; and threat management and assessment. Justices from the Trial Court as well as an SJC Justice and other Trial Court leadership were invited to present and offer their expertise.



MASSACHUSETTS APPEALS COURT

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