



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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**Hon. A. Gail Prudenti
Chief Administrative Judge**

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New Administrative Judge Named in Third Judicial District

NEW YORK – Chief Administrative Judge A. Gail Prudenti today announced the appointment of Hon. Thomas Breslin as Administrative Judge of the Third Judicial District. The appointment was made with the approval of Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman and in consultation with Presiding Justice Karen Peters of the Appellate Division, Third Department, and Hon. Michael Coccoma, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts outside New York City. In his new capacity, Judge Breslin will be responsible for overseeing court operations in the seven counties comprising the District: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster. He succeeds Hon. Thomas Mercure, who turned 70 this past December and will step down as Administrative Judge.

In making the appointment Judge Prudenti said, “Judge Breslin is a widely esteemed member of the Capital District area’s legal community whose impeccable reputation as an attorney and judge, coupled with his strong administrative skills and leadership qualities, make him ideally suited to take on this critical position. He brings great energy and vision to his new role, and I am confident that his stewardship will be a tremendous asset to the judges and staff in

the Third Judicial District and the public they serve. I am pleased that he has accepted this important judicial assignment and look forward to working with him in his new capacity.”

Judge Breslin began his judicial career in June 1990, upon filling the newly created Family Court judgeship in Albany County. He was subsequently elected to Albany’s Family Court bench, and later to its County Court bench, and in 1999 was appointed an acting Supreme Court Justice and designated Supervising Judge of Criminal Courts in the Third Judicial District. In 2011, after serving 19 years on the County Court bench, he was elected to State Supreme Court in the Third Judicial District. Prior to his ascension to the bench, he was a partner at Breslin, Breslin & Breslin. Early in his career, he served as an assistant district attorney as well as an assistant public defender in Albany County. An Albany native, Judge Breslin received his undergraduate degree from Boston College and his Juris Doctor from the University of Toledo College of Law.

Judge Prudenti added, “I want to express my enormous appreciation to Judge Mercure for his significant contributions to the court system over the course of his extraordinary judicial career, which spans some 30 years, including 25 years of service on the Appellate Division bench. I feel extremely fortunate to have worked closely with Judge Mercure and am particularly grateful to him for volunteering to stay on as Administrative Judge until a successor was named to fill this vital post. Judge Mercure will continue his career in the law and is currently exploring a variety of career options. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.”

Judge Breslin’s appointment will take effect on March 1, 2014.

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