



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge**

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Administrative Judge Named for the Fifth Judicial District

NEW YORK—Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks today announced the appointment of Hon. James P. Murphy as Administrative Judge for the Fifth Judicial District. The appointment was made with the approval of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and after consultation with Hon. Gerald J. Whalen, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

As Administrative Judge, Judge Murphy will oversee the daily operations of the trial-level courts in the Fifth Judicial District, which encompasses Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego counties in Central New York. He is filling a vacancy left by the late Judge James C. Tormey III, who served as the District's Administrative Judge for nearly two decades. Judge Tormey passed away on June 22 after a brief illness.

In announcing the appointment, Judge Marks said, "Judge Murphy is an experienced judge widely recognized for his integrity and fairness. He has also earned a reputation as a capable administrator as demonstrated by his supervision for over a decade of the District's justice courts and, more recently, as the Fifth Judicial District's acting Administrative Judge. I am fully confident in his ability to successfully lead the Fifth Judicial District and build on Judge Tormey's work to streamline court operations, increase public access to the courts and enhance the delivery of justice."

Chief Judge DiFiore added, “Judge Murphy possesses the expertise and vision to take on the formidable challenges of this important administrative role. I am eager to work with him to implement programs and practices to achieve and maintain excellence throughout the District, advancing the progress made during Judge Tormey’s tenure.”

Hon. James P. Murphy was elected to the State Supreme Court, Fifth Judicial District, bench in 2004 and re-elected in 2018, assigned to the matrimonial, general civil and commercial parts. In addition to his Supreme Court duties, he has been serving as Supervising Judge for the Town and Village Courts in the Fifth Judicial District, overseeing more than 200 Town and Village Justices. Additionally, since Judge Tormey’s untimely passing, Judge Murphy has been acting as Administrative Judge for the entire Fifth Judicial District.

Prior to his ascension to the bench, Judge Murphy was a member of the Onondaga County Legislature, where he served as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee. Previously, he served as an Assistant District Attorney in Onondaga County and was in private practice for 20 years, with an emphasis on civil litigation and municipal law.

Among Judge Murphy’s extra-judicial activities, he is the immediate past president of the Onondaga County Bar Association and currently serves as Presiding Member of the Judicial Section of the New York State Bar Association. He also provides continuing education and training to New York State court system judges, as well as to local town and village court justices, attorneys and law students.

Judge Murphy is a Syracuse native and graduate of Syracuse University College of Law.

His appointment is effective immediately.

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