

Governor Markell Nominates Judge Michael Newell for Chief Judge of Delaware Family Court

Wilmington, DE – Governor Markell today announced the nomination of the Honorable Michael Newell, a member of the Family Court since 2004, to serve as Chief Judge of the Family Court of the State of Delaware. If confirmed by the Delaware Senate, Newell will fill the vacancy left by Chief Judge Chandlee J. Kuhn, whose term is set to expire on June 4th.

“Judge Newell is an outstanding jurist who has served with distinction as a member of the Family Court for more than a decade,” said Governor Markell. “His intelligence, integrity, and commitment to justice are second to none. If he is confirmed by the Senate, I believe he will continue to serve our state well as Chief Judge of the Family Court.”

From 1978 through 1981, Judge Newell served as the executive assistant to the Honorable Robert D. Thompson, who at that time served as Chief Judge of the Family Court. He then served as a master in the Family Court before joining Bayard, P.A. in 1983 to practice family law. Immediately prior to his appointment as a Family Court judge, Judge Newell was a partner at Connolly, Bove, Lodge & Hutz, LLP, where he was head of the Family Law Department.

In addition to his legal experience, Judge Newell is active in his community. He has served as a trustee of the Nativity Preparatory School of Wilmington since 2011, and is a former member of the development committee for Saint John the Beloved Parish, as well as a former youth athletics coach.

"I am honored and privileged to be nominated by Governor Markell to serve as Chief Judge of the Family Court," said Judge Newell. "The Family Court is comprised of dedicated, talented, and professional judges, commissioners, administrators, and staff who come to work each day to serve the citizens of Delaware. If I am confirmed by the Senate, I will do my best to move this Court forward."

Judge Newell, 62, received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Delaware in 1975 and a Master of Science degree from Northeastern University in 1976. He earned his law degree at Widener University Delaware Law School in 1981 and was admitted to the Delaware Bar in 1982. He resides with his wife in Hockessin.

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