



PRESS RELEASE
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NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE SELECTED

Robert A. Richardson, a Partner in the New Haven law firm of Garrison, Levin-Epstein, Richardson, Fitzgerald & Pirrotti, P.C., has been selected as a Magistrate Judge of the District Court for the District of Connecticut. He will be sworn in on January 12, 2016, and he will hold court at the Hartford federal courthouse. Mr. Richardson fills the Magistrate Judge vacancy created by the retirement of Magistrate Judge Thomas P. Smith, effective June 30, 2015.

Mr. Richardson grew up in Bethany, Connecticut and currently resides in New Haven. He is a 1984 graduate of Amity High School. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Pennsylvania State University in 1988. Mr. Richardson received a Juris Doctor degree from the Ohio State University College of Law in 1991. He was a Managing Editor of the Ohio State Law Journal, a recipient of the Judge Joseph M. Haerter Award for trial practice, and a recipient of the American Jurisprudence Award. He also interned for the Honorable Herbert R. Brown of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Mr. Richardson joined the law firm then known as Garrison, Silbert & Arterton, P.C., in 1991. Since that time, he has represented individuals and employees in employment and civil rights matters, in both state and federal courts, as well as in arbitrations. He is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has been listed in the Best Lawyers in America for employment law since 2006. He recently served as co-chair of the Connecticut Bar Association's Federal Judiciary Committee, and he previously served on the District Court's Federal Grievance Committee (1996-2001) and on the Connecticut Bar Association's Committee on Professional Ethics (2002-2011). In addition, he recently served as Vice President of the National Employment Lawyers' Association and as a member of the Editorial Board for the Connecticut Law Tribune.

The District Judges appointed the Magistrate Judge Selection Committee that screened applications for the vacancy created by Judge Smith's retirement. Its Chair was William M. Bloss of Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder in Bridgeport. Other members of the Selection Committee were: John R. Flores of Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company in Canton, Massachusetts; Ross H. Garber of Shipman & Goodwin in Hartford; Carlton Highsmith of CLH Holdings, Inc. of New Haven; Margaret Hiller of the Bridgeport Public Education Fund in Bridgeport; Moy N. Ogilvie of McCarter & English in Hartford; Krishna R. Patel of Justice Initiatives at Grace Farms in New Canaan; David N. Rosen of David Rosen & Associates, P.C. in New Haven; and Paul F. Thomas, formerly of the Office of the Federal Defender in New Haven.

The Selection Committee received 62 applications for the judicial position following wide dissemination of the notice of vacancy. The Committee interviewed 11 applicants and identified a list of five exceptionally capable and distinguished lawyers to forward to the District Judges. In its recommendation, the Committee observed that, "The Committee was pleased to have considered applications from many candidates who would serve our Court with distinction. Mr. Richardson's experience and temperament will lead to an outstanding career as a magistrate judge, and we look forward to his work for the Court."

The selection of Mr. Richardson was made by the District Judges, according to Chief Judge Janet C. Hall. "Rob Richardson is a talented lawyer with extensive trial and mediation experience. He has been a leader in the legal profession. He is very smart, with an excellent demeanor. He possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we look forward with great enthusiasm to welcoming him to the ranks of judicial officers in our District," Hall said.

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