



PRESS RELEASE
January 9, 2020

CONTACT
Robin Tabora: (203) 773-2140

NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE SWORN IN

Thomas O. Farrish, recently a Partner in the Hartford office of Day Pitney LLP, has been selected as a Magistrate Judge for the District of Connecticut. He was sworn in on January 8, 2020, and he will preside at the Hartford federal courthouse. Mr. Farrish fills the magistrate judge vacancy created by the retirement of Magistrate Judge Donna F. Martinez, effective on October 4, 2019.

Mr. Farrish is a longtime resident of Connecticut. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1981 and was honorably discharged in 1987. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Connecticut in 1999, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law ("UCONN Law") in 2005. He was Editor-in-Chief of the Connecticut Law Review and a recipient of numerous awards, including: the William F. Starr Prize for finishing first in his class; the Aspen Law and Business Award for excellence in the study of evidence; and the Milton W. Horwitz Memorial Prize for excellence in the study of torts.

Mr. Farrish joined Day Pitney in 2005 as an associate counsel. The general nature of his practice comprised insurance disputes and other complex commercial matters, with a specialty in reinsurance, in both state and federal courts. In addition, he had a substantial *pro bono* practice representing indigent prison inmates in federal court. In 2014, he received the District of Connecticut's Pro Bono Award for his volunteer service as counsel to indigent prison inmates in civil rights cases.

A strong supporter of efforts to diversify the bar, Mr. Farrish served on Day Pitney's hiring committee for eight years, including two as chair. Under his leadership, the firm's summer associate and first-year associate classes became significantly more diverse. He has served as a mentor to UCONN Law students who come from communities that have been traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession.

Mr. Farrish is a member of the American, Connecticut, Hartford County, and Tolland County Bar Associations. He has been a member of the CBA's Insurance Law and Federal Practice sections. In addition, since 2006, he has been a member of ARIAS-US, a group dedicated to the improvement of arbitration as a mechanism for resolving insurance and reinsurance disputes. He is a former member of the Oliver Ellsworth Inn of Court, the board of trustees of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center (2012 to 2018), and the Board of the University of Connecticut Law School Foundation (2011 to 2017).

Mr. Farrish has published several articles pertaining to insurance and reinsurance law. In addition, he developed a course in reinsurance law for the UCONN Law School's LL.M. program, which he has taught for the past 10 years.

The District Judges appointed the Magistrate Judge Selection Committee that screened applications for the vacancy created by Judge Martinez's retirement. Its Chair was Deirdre M. Daly of Finn Dixon & Herling LLP in Stamford. Other members of the Selection Committee were: Angela Phillips-Arrington of the YMCA of Greater Hartford and the Connecticut Forum; Maximino Medina, Jr. of Zeldes, Needle & Cooper in Bridgeport; Thomas D. Goldberg of Day Pitney LLP in Stamford; Stephen J. Fitzgerald of Garrison Levin-Epstein Fitzgerald & Pirrotti PC in New Haven; Allison Murray Near of the Office of the Federal Public Defender in New Haven; Susan Wines of the Office of the United States Attorney in New Haven; Edward Wilson, Jr. of the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General in Hartford; Victoria Woodin Chavey of Jackson Lewis PC in Hartford; Benjamin C. Jensen of Robinson & Cole LLP in Hartford; and Rabbi Herbert N. Brockman of Hamden.

The Selection Committee received 32 applications for the judicial position following wide dissemination of the notice of vacancy. The Committee interviewed 10 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, "Among many qualified candidates, Tom Farrish, a former Marine, distinguished himself as a highly skilled and experienced litigator who always made time for meaningful *pro bono* work. He impressed the Committee members as an attorney with integrity, good judgement, and a calm and caring demeanor, who can readily take on the responsibilities of a Magistrate Judge."

The selection of Mr. Farrish was made by the District Judges, according to Chief Judge Stefan R. Underhill. "Tom Farrish is an outstanding lawyer. He has been a respected leader in the legal profession. He is very smart and possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience. My colleagues and I are thrilled to welcome him to the ranks of judicial officers in our District," Underhill said.

###