



PRESS RELEASE

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DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT WELCOMES NEW DISTRICT JUDGE

On October 6, 2021, the United States Senate confirmed the Honorable Sarah A. L. Merriam as a United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed her commission on October 8, 2021, and she was sworn in by the Honorable Stefan R. Underhill, Chief United States District Judge, on October 12, 2021.

Prior to becoming a district judge, she was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for the District of Connecticut on April 3, 2015, and served over six years in that position, handling both civil and criminal matters. Judge Merriam is the first Magistrate Judge to be seated as a District Judge in the District of Connecticut's history.

Judge Merriam moved to New Haven at an early age and grew up in the City. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree, *cum laude*, from Georgetown University in 1993 and a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School in 2000. In 2018, she earned her L.L.M. in judicial studies from Duke Law School. Prior to serving as a Magistrate Judge, she served as an Assistant Federal Defender from 2007-2015; as an Associate at the law firm of Cowdery, Ecker & Murphy in Hartford; as a law clerk to Judge Thomas Meskill of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals; and as a law clerk to Judge Alvin W. Thompson of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Chief Judge Underhill said, "Sarah Merriam is a remarkably talented judge. The district judges have worked closely with Judge Merriam over the last six-plus years and are delighted to welcome her to the district court bench. Her commitment to the administration of justice and the citizens of Connecticut is unwavering. We highly respect the experience, intellect, and work ethic she brings to the bench every day."

Judge Merriam's chambers are currently located in the Richard C. Lee U.S. Courthouse in New Haven. She is expected to relocate to the Brien McMahon Federal Building in Bridgeport. She fills the vacancy created by the Honorable Janet C. Hall, who assumed senior status in January 2021.

The District of Connecticut has eight authorized judgeships. There are currently two vacancies.

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