

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Christie Whitman today announced nominations to the Superior Court

Gov. Christie Whitman today announced her intention to nominate the following persons as judges of the Superior Court:

Donald R. Venezia, of Cliffside Park, a sole practicing attorney specializing in matters of criminal law and dealing with land use planning, municipal practice and personal injury and workers compensation matters. A municipal prosecutor in Fort Lee and in Hoboken, Venezia is also the planning board attorney for Cliffside Park and substitute municipal prosecutor for the Township of North Bergen. He is a graduate of the Seton Hall University School of Law.

Lorraine Pullen, of Piscataway, Commissioner of the State of New Jersey Victims of Crimes Compensation Board. Ms. Pullen served as Assistant Deputy Public Defender for the Department of the Public Defender from 1987 to 1996 and was staff counsel for the Department of Environmental Protection from 1981 to 1987. She is a graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law.

Wendel E. Daniels, of Lakewood, a sole practitioner specializing in real estate, civil rights, police misconduct and criminal defense. Daniels is the Supervising Assistant Prosecutor and Trial Attorney for the Juvenile Prosecution Unit in Ocean County. He also serves on the New Jersey State Board of Education. He previously was associated with the law firm of Lawson and Butler in Asbury Park. Daniels is a graduate of Rutgers Law School.

Joseph L. Yannotti, of Bogota, Deputy Director of the Division of Law in the Department of Law and Public Safety since 1990. Yannotti previously served as a Deputy Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General in charge of appeals in the Division of Law and as a Section Chief in the Banking, Insurance and Public Securities Section of the Department of Law and Public Safety. He is a graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law.

Sheldon R. Franklin, of Lakewood, an attorney in the Franklin Law Firm, P. A., primarily specializing in real estate, small business and transactional law and wills and estates. He has served as a Lakewood Township Committeeman since January, 1997 and as Mayor of Lakewood since January 1, 1998. He is a graduate of Rutgers Law School.

John A. Peterson, of Seaside Park, a sole practitioner with extensive experience in all phases of civil and criminal litigation, trial preparation and jury trials. He also serves as municipal prosecutor for the Borough of Point Pleasant Beach, Borough of Point Pleasant and Borough of Island Heights and as municipal

public defender for Eagleswood Township. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Law.

Sebastian Gaeta, Jr., of Glen Rock, an Administrative Law Judge in the Office of Administrative Law. He previously served as municipal judge in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina and as an Assistant Public Defender in Charleston County, South Carolina. He is a graduate of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, College of William and Mary.

Charles J. Walsh, of Ridgewood, a partner in the law firm of Sills Cummis Zuckerman Radin Tischman Epstein & Gross, P. A., Newark, practicing in pharmaceutical and medical device products liability, environmental responsibility, unfair competition, antitrust laws and employment and criminal law. He previously served in a variety of posts in the United States Attorneys Office, District of New Jersey, including First Assistant United States Attorney. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Robert C. Wilson, of Ramsey, Vice President and General Counsel for Professional Security Bureau, LTD, Nutley. He previously served as an Assistant Prosecutor in the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, as Assistant General Counsel for Special Service Freight Co., Inc. and as corporate counsel for Pinkerton's Inc., New York. He is a graduate of New York Law School.