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NEWS RELEASE

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Whitman to Nominate Long to Replace Handler as Associate Justice of State Supreme Court

NJ Gov. Christie Whitman today said that she will nominate State Superior Court Judge Virginia M. Long, of Hopewell Township, to replace Alan B. Handler as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Long currently serves as a presiding judge in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court, in Trenton.

"Judge Long is well-known for her compassion and understanding, as well as her intellect and integrity. I can think of no one more qualified to join our court at this time," the Governor said.

"Her extensive experience as a jurist, a cabinet member, as Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs and in private practice will provide important insights to the court as it faces the challenges of the new millennium," Whitman said.

"Judge Long's opinions have been well-reasoned and tempered. She clearly possesses the ability and desire to weigh equities and find the balance we expect from our courts," she said.

"In picking nominees for our highest court, I have looked for individuals of the highest character, ethics and integrity. In all these ways, Judge Long excels," Whitman said.

Judge Long was first named to the Superior Court in 1978 and re-nominated in 1985. She was named to the Appellate Division in 1984 and became a presiding judge in 1995. She served as Commissioner of the Department of Banking in 1977 and Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in 1975. She was in private practice with Pitney, Hardin & Kipp in the firm's litigation department.

Judge Long is married, has three children and lives in Hopewell Township with her husband, Jonathan Weiner, also an attorney.