



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Christie Whitman Nominates Prosecutors for Somerset, Essex and Sussex Counties and Judge for Superior Court

Gov. Christie Whitman today submitted to the New Jersey Senate the nominations of Patricia Ann Hurt for appointment as Essex County Prosecutor; Dolores M. Blackburn for appointment as Sussex County Prosecutor and Wayne J. Forrest for appointment as Somerset County Prosecutor.

The Governor also submitted to the Senate the nomination of Thomas W. Cavanagh, Jr., of Oceanport, for appointment as a Superior Court Judge and Philip B. Cummis, of North Caldwell, for reappointment as Superior Court Judge.

She also submitted to the Senate the nomination of Chester Apy, of Little Silver, for reappointment as a Workers' Compensation Judge.

Hurt, of Montclair, has been Deputy Essex County Administrator since January, 1995. From 1991 to 1994, Hurt was a sole practitioner, providing extensive legal services, particularly in the areas of criminal law, real estate and matrimonial law.

She also has served as an Assistant County Prosecutor in the Prosecutor's Office in Hudson County and Essex County and as Chief Municipal Prosecutor and Corporation Counsel in Newark. Hurt also was a tenured, full-time Assistant Professor at Montclair State University from 1992 to 1994.

Hurt received her law degree from the Howard University School of Law and her undergraduate degree from Elimira College.

Blackburn currently is a senior associate for the law firm of Scarinci & Hollenbeck, of Secaucus and Newton, where she has worked since 1994. She is primarily responsible for the firm's representation of the City of

Passaic, including civil rights in state and federal court, tort claim and liability defense, tax foreclosures, general litigation and municipal law. She also serves as Board Attorney for the Montague Planning Board.

Blackburn also served as a senior associate for the firm of Kelly, Gaus & Holub of Newton, as an Associate for Trapasso, Dolan & Hollander, of Newton, and Lowenstein, Sandler, Kohl, Fisher & Boylan, of Roseland. She also was employed as an attorney for the Cooper-McWhorter Title Agency, Morristown, and the Chicago Title Insurance Company, Chicago, Ill.

Blackburn received her law degree from the John Marshall Law School, Chicago and her undergraduate degree from Montclair State University.

Forrest, of Hillsborough Township, has been a Deputy State Attorney General since 1984. Since January, 1995, he has been supervisor of the Major Fraud/Securities Section of the Economic Crime Bureau in the Division of Criminal Justice. As a Deputy Attorney General, Forrest prosecuted almost all types of criminal offenses, ranging from murder to distribution of narcotics and complex white collar financial crimes. He is a certified criminal trial attorney.

Prior to receiving his law degree, he served as a State Investigator/Legal Assistant in the Prosecutors Supervisory Section of the Department of Law and Public Safety.

Forrest received his law degree from the Seton Hall University School of Law and a Master's Degree in Administration of Justice from Webster University.

Cavanagh is the Associate Attorney and Managing Partner of the firm now known as Chamlin, Rosen, Cavanagh and Uliano, West Long Branch, where he has been employed since 1973. During 20 years of general practice, Cavanagh specialized in public labor, medical malpractice and appellate matters. He handled both jury and non-jury trials in the Superior Court as well as numerous motions on that same level.

Cavanagh has served as mayor of Oceanport since 1983. He received his law degree from the Seton Hall University School of Law and his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University.

Cummis has been a Superior Court Judge in Essex County since 1990. Prior to his appointment to the Superior Court, he was an Administrative Law Judge for the State of New Jersey.

Appy has been a Workers' Compensation Judge since 1994. He was a member of the New Jersey General Assembly from 1968 to 1969 and from 1972 to 1973.

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