

News Advisory

From the Rhode Island Judiciary



Chief Justice welcomes judicial appointments

December 8, 2020: Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell today welcomed Governor Gina M. Raimondo’s appointments to the bench with the following statement:

“The Governor’s judicial selections today are truly historic and reflect her continuing commitment to diversifying the Judiciary. She has nominated the first Black justice to the Supreme Court, the first Asian-American to the Superior Court, and the first Latina to the Family Court. Subject to the confirmation process, the Governor has also assured that the Supreme Court will have a female majority for the first time in its history.

“On behalf of the Supreme Court, we welcome Erin Lynch Prata and Melissa Long. They have big shoes to fill, but I have every confidence that with their varied experiences and knowledge of the law, they will be invaluable colleagues on the Court.”

(Lynch Prata, an attorney and former state senator, was nominated to succeed Justice Gilbert V. Indeglia, who retired in June. Judge Long, an associate justice of the Superior Court, was nominated to succeed Justice Francis X. Flaherty, who will retire at the end of December.)

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