

News Advisory

From the Rhode Island Judiciary



Chief Justice appoints chief disciplinary counsel

May 10, 2021: Kerry Reilley Travers, deputy in the Supreme Court Office of Disciplinary Counsel and a 30-year employee of that office, has been appointed chief disciplinary counsel, Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell announced today. Travers succeeds David D. Curtin, who retired last month.

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel investigates and prosecutes cases of attorney misconduct in conjunction with the Supreme Court and its Disciplinary Board. Prior to becoming deputy disciplinary counsel a year ago, Travers had been an assistant disciplinary counsel in the office concentrating on attorney ethics and helping members of both the public and the bar. A graduate of Providence College and Suffolk University School of Law, she has extensive experience in the application of the Rules of Professional Conduct and in the investigation of criminal and financial misconduct involving attorneys.

“Dave Curtin will be a tough act to follow, but Kerry is just the person to do it,” Chief Justice Suttell said. “She understands the office and its mission, and she appreciates the importance of helping attorneys to avoid ethical mistakes. At the same time, however, she is an experienced prosecutor of client complaints.”

Said Travers: “I have spent most of my legal career working in the Disciplinary Counsel’s office in service to the court and the Disciplinary Board by helping members of the public navigate and resolve disputes that inevitably arise with their attorneys. Protection of the public is at the forefront, but I am also committed to providing guidance to attorneys when they face ethical dilemmas, with a goal of trying to reduce the likelihood of client complaints. I am honored to continue my service to the court.”

Curtin had served as chief disciplinary counsel since 1994 and had been in the office since 1991. In 2016, he received the President’s Award from the National Organization of Bar Counsel for “his many noteworthy contributions to the legal profession and for a lifetime of achievement in legal ethics, professional responsibility, attorney regulation and service to the NOBC.”

#