



# Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers Departs Supreme Court after a 20-year Judicial Career

By Leanna Zwiebel



After almost 11 years as chief justice, Chase T. Rogers has retired from the bench, effective February 5. Her 20-year judicial career began in 1998 as a superior court judge and she was later sworn-in as an appellate court judge in 2006. She was nominated to be chief justice by Governor M. Jodi Rell in 2007.

Justice Richard N. Palmer commended the former chief justice, stating, "Chase Rogers was appointed chief justice at a most challenging time for this state's judicial branch, but under her calm and thoughtful lead-

ership, the branch is once again a national model for the way in which state judicial systems should operate."

During her tenure as chief justice, she established the Commission on Public Service and Trust and charged its members with creating the judicial branch's first-ever strategic plan. With the ultimate goal of providing meaningful access to justice, this plan has led to hundreds of positive changes within the branch that have directly impacted those who use the courts. Results of this plan include, but are not limited to, enhanced access to justice, improved openness and transparency of the branch, increased diversity and inclusion in judicial staffing, stronger mentorship for new judges, the establishment of the Committee on Judicial Ethics, and streamlined court processes.

"My years on the bench have been a fascinating and rewarding chapter of my life, made more so by the talented judges and judicial branch employees [with] whom I have worked. I am forever indebted to them for their dedication and commitment to access to justice, and it is they who make it difficult to leave," reflected Rogers.

In letters to judges and staff of the Connecticut Judicial Branch, she stated that when she began her career as chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, she believed ten years in a position of leadership

was "just about right." She thanked the staff of the branch for all they have done during her tenure, stating that they demonstrated an "unwavering commitment to innovative change that has resulted in a judicial branch well-equipped to fulfill its mission for the foreseeable future" by playing an essential role in its strategic planning, transitioning to being primarily paperless, managing infrastructure and human resource functions, and improving cultural competency.

Additionally, the former chief justice praised her colleagues, noting that despite ongoing budgetary restrictions and the increased number of self-represented litigants, the quality of their work and efforts to achieve justice has not been impeded, stating, "I am even more convinced of this as I step down. As I move to the next phase of my career, I wish each of you only the best."

She will join Day Pitney LLP's Hartford office as a partner in the litigation department and as a member of the appellate practice group on March 19. **CL**



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