

**CHANGES IN SUPERIOR COURT CLERK ASSIGNMENTS  
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2009**

**BARBARA HOGAN TO SERVE IN SULLIVAN AND CHESHIRE COUNTY  
JAMES PEALE WILL SERVE AS ACTING CLERK IN BELKNAP COUNTY,  
SUCCEEDING DANA ZUCKER**

CONCORD----Superior Court Chief Justice Robert J. Lynn, citing the need to consolidate staff and reduce expenditures, announced today that Barbara A. Hogan will serve temporarily as clerk of Sullivan County Superior Court in Newport in addition to her current duties as Clerk of Cheshire County Superior Court in Keene. James I. Peale, who has been clerk at Sullivan Superior , has been named temporary clerk of Belknap County Superior Court in Laconia.

The new assignments, and the decision to temporarily combine two clerk positions, followed the resignation of Dana W. Zucker, who has been clerk in Belknap Superior for 22 years. Chief Justice Lynn said the changes reflect the need for the Judicial Branch to operate more efficiently and cut costs while state government faces a long term economic downturn. Lynn said his decision to name Hogan to oversee the clerk's office in two county courts reflects the reduced caseload in Sullivan County after the opening of the Family Division in both Newport and Claremont.

"Having one clerk cover two courts at least on a temporary trial basis allows us to save money when we had the opportunity to do it" following Zucker's retirement, Lynn said.

Currently a Superior Court judge sits in Sullivan County every other month, a decision made in 2006 as a result of the reduced caseload occasioned by the opening of the family division in Sullivan County. A Superior Court Judge is assigned to Cheshire County every month; a marital master sits in Cheshire County every other month to assist the Superior Court with domestic relations cases (there are as yet no Family Division sites in Cheshire County).

Chief Justice Lynn said that, depending on other needs in the court system and the state, he believes he will be able to add an additional month of Superior Court judge time in Sullivan County in 2010.

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