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Senior Associate Supreme Court Justice Andrew M. Mead Assumes Position as Acting Chief Justice of the Maine Judicial Branch

April 14, 2020, Portland, Maine.

The Maine Judicial Branch announced today that Senior Associate Supreme Court Justice Andrew M. Mead will “perform any and all duties of the Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Court,” pursuant to statute, following the resignation of Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley to become Dean of the University of Maine School of Law. Senior Associate Justice Mead will serve until Governor Mills nominates, and the legislature confirms, a new Chief Justice.

Chief Justice Saufley served on the Supreme Court for 23 years and was appointed as Maine’s first female Chief Justice in 2001. She began her judicial career as a District Court Judge and served on the Maine Superior Court before joining the Supreme Court.

Acting Chief Justice Mead has been a member of the Maine judiciary since 1990, including as a District Court Judge, Superior Court Justice, and Chief Justice of the Maine Superior Court, and serving as an Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court since 2007. ACJ Mead will oversee all operations of Judicial Branch trial courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts, including the Judicial Branch’s continuing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In marking the transition of Chief Justice Saufley, Acting Chief Justice Mead said, “I know I am speaking for all of her colleagues on the bench as well as the entire staff of the Judicial Branch in thanking “The Chief” for her years of dedicated service to the people of Maine. During her extraordinary tenure, the Judicial Branch has made significant progress in modernizing court facilities and processes, including implementing the first phase of a new digital court records management system, Maine eCourts. Chief Justice Saufley shepherded the development of several Judicial Centers and many improvements to existing courthouses statewide that have made Maine courts safer, more respectful, and accessible for all. We will dearly miss her acute legal mind, memorable sense of humor, and personal kindness, but are excited to watch her unique leadership skills in action as she assumes this important new role with the University of Maine.”

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