



September 26, 2025
Report from District One
Honorable Amy Lyn Blake

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico and Rhode Island

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Judge Diane Freniere, Superior Court



Judge Freniere graduated from Boston University, with honors, and Boston College Law School, cum laude. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Freniere practiced intellectual property at Hale and Dorr before becoming an assistant United States Attorney where she rose to the Executive Assistant United States Attorney. Prior to her legal career, she served as an active duty and reserve officer in the United States Air Force. Judge Freniere was sworn in as an associate justice of the Superior Court in 2017.

Paul Hart Smyth, Appeals Court



Judge Smyth graduated from Amherst College and the University of Virginia Law School. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Smyth served as an assistant district attorney, and then an assistant United States attorney eventually becoming Chief of the Springfield office. In 2015, Judge Smyth was appointed to the District Court, becoming First Justice in 2018. He was appointed to the Appeals Court in 2022.

Judge Elizabeth Teixeira, Probate & Family Court



Judge Teixeira graduated from the University of Massachusetts and Suffolk University Law School. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was in private practice specializing in all aspects of family law matters. Judge Teixeira was sworn in as an associate justice of the Probate & Family Court in 2020.

Judge Amy L. Karangekis, Superior Court



Judge Karangekis graduated from The Ohio State University and New England School of Law. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was the regional chief of the Western division of the Attorney General's Office. Judge Karangekis worked on civil and criminal matters in Massachusetts and Maine before joining the AG's office and clerked for Justice Judith A. Cowin of the Supreme Judicial Court and Justice Harold Flannery of the Appeals Court. Judge Karangekis was sworn in as an associate justice of the Superior Court in 2025.

Attorney Jackie R. Kaz, Juvenile Court

Jackie R. Kaz is a research attorney for the Juvenile Court. She has been in practice since 2013.

BOSTON 2025

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Respectfully submitted:

Hon. Amy Lyn Blake
NAWJ District One Director