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FIVE NEW FAMILY COURT MAGISTRATE JUDGES NAMED BY D.C. SUPERIOR COURT TODAY

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Chief Judge Rufus G. King III today announced the selection of five new magistrate judges to serve in the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The five new magistrates are: Julie Breslow, Karen Howze, Tara Fentress, John McCabe and Joan Goldfrank. Ms. Goldfrank will serve as Chair of the Mental Health Commission within the Family Court.

"This is another key step in the implementation of the Family Court Act, another step toward improving the lives of abused and neglected children in the District of Columbia. Today we bring on four additional magistrate judges to handle these cases and to see that children get the services they need and the protection they deserve," said Chief Judge King. "In addition, the recent retirement of Mental Health Commission Chair Arlene Robinson, after eight years of outstanding service, left a void that the Court was most anxious to fill; we were fortunate to find someone with the depth of experience that Ms. Goldfrank has."

Referring to the four new magistrate judges who will be working full time on abuse and neglected children's cases, Family Court Presiding Judge Lee F. Satterfield said: "We are fortunate to have been able to recruit four such talented individuals to help us implement the provisions of the Family Court Act. They bring a wealth of talent, experience and commitment to their new roles and we are excited to have them joining the Family Court."

The four new magistrate judges handling abuse and neglect are:

Julie R. Breslow - Ms. Breslow has served for the past three years as chief of the Victim Witness Assistance Unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Columbia, supervising a staff that provided assistance to victims of violent crime, including children who experienced physical and sexual abuse. She has been instrumental in the creation of a child waiting room in the U.S. Attorney's Office so that child victims and witnesses have a safe and supervised area while in the Office. Previously Ms. Breslow worked in the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys at the U.S. Department of Justice, in the Office of the General Counsel for the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), and at the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia's Office handling child abuse, juvenile and child support matters. She is a graduate of Union College and the Albany Law School.

Karen Aileen Howze - Ms. Howze is currently in private practice and serves as Project Director for the ABA Center on Children and the Law under a grant addressing adolescent health legal issues. Prior to that, Ms. Howze served as Special Master of the D.C. Superior Court's Family Division Remedial Project, conducting training on a range of family law issues related to abuse and neglected children and developing a proposal to provide Permanency Resolution Services to families with children in the abuse and neglect system. Previously Ms. Howze was a reporter with newspapers in San Francisco, New York and USA Today. Ms. Howze is a graduate of the University of Southern California and the Hastings College of Law.

Tara Fentress - Ms. Fentress has been in private practice since 1989, for the past ten years focusing on child abuse, neglect, custody and adoption cases. She is the President of the Greater Washington Area Chapter of Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association and serves on the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. In addition, Ms. Fentress is a motivational speaker for children and a recent Grammy Award nominee in the category of "Traditional Gospel Album." Ms. Fentress is a graduate of Wesleyan University and Georgetown University Law Center.

John McCabe -- Mr. McCabe is currently an Assistant United States Attorney prosecuting cases in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and arguing appeals in the D.C. Court of Appeals. He previously served as Assistant Corporation Counsel for eight years, chief of the Domestic Violence Section for three years and as a trial attorney in the Intrafamily Offense (child abuse and neglect) Unit for two years before that. In addition, Mr. McCabe served as a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia handling custody and child support matters. He is a graduate of Duke University and Tulane University Law School, receiving his JD cum laude.

The new Chair of the Mental Health Commission is:

Joan Lorraine Goldfrank - Ms. Goldfrank is currently Senior Legal Advisor in the U.S. Department of Justice's Professional Responsibility Advisory Office. She previously served as Executive Attorney on the Board of Professional Responsibility within the D.C. Court of Appeals and as an attorney in the Office of Legal Advisor at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital. Ms. Goldfrank graduated cum laude from Emory University and received her JD at the Emory School of Law.

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