



**UNITED STATES COURTS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT
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PRESS RELEASE

JAMES S. NIXON TO BECOME FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

BOSTON (April 4, 2024) — Chief Judge David J. Barron of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit announced today that the Court has selected Attorney James S. Nixon to serve as the next Federal Public Defender (FPD) for the District of Maine. Attorney Nixon will fill the vacancy resulting from David Beneman's retirement in June 2024, and will assume the position upon the successful completion of a full FBI background investigation. Mr. Nixon is expected to maintain his principal office in Bangor.

Attorney Nixon has been an Assistant Federal Public Defender (AFPD) in the District of Maine and the sole resident attorney at the Bangor branch of the Federal Public Defender Office for the District of Maine since 2014. Attorney Nixon earned his law degree from the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law in 1994, after graduating from the University of Maine in 1988. Following law school, Attorney Nixon was an Associate (1994-2001) before becoming a Shareholder (2001-2014) at Gross, Minsky & Mogul, P.A., in Bangor, Maine. From 2010 to 2014, Attorney Nixon served as Co-Managing Partner of the firm.

While in private practice, Attorney Nixon was a member of the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel for the District of Maine, and, from 2010 to 2014, Attorney Nixon served as the

National CJA Panel Representative for the District of Maine, representing the district at national conferences and creating a Leadership Action Plan that led to the formation of the District of Maine's Criminal Law Committee, on which he still serves. From 2005 to 2014, Attorney Nixon was a member of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure, and, from 2008 to 2017, he was a member of the District of Maine Local Rules Advisory Committee.

Chief Judge Barron stated: "Jamie Nixon brings a wealth of experience to the critical role of providing effective assistance of counsel to those dearly in need of it. His commitment to indigent defense and deep knowledge of the District of Maine ensures that he will be a worthy successor to David Beneman, who has led the office so well during his superb tenure." Chief Judge Barron expressed appreciation to David Beneman, who has served as FPD since 2006, for his many years of dedicated service. The Chief Judge thanked Circuit Judge William J. Kayatta, Jr., who served as chair of the Committee for the Appointment of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Maine, and Circuit Judge Kermit V. Lipez, who also served on the Committee. In addition, Chief Judge Barron commended the other members of the Committee: Circuit Executive Susan J. Goldberg; Kaylee J. Folster, Esq., of Vafiades, Broutas & Kominsky, LLP; Stacey D. Neumann, Esq., of Murray, Plumb & Murray; and John Van Lonkhuyzen, Esq., of Verrill Dana LLP.