

NEWS from THE THIRD CIRCUIT

PHILADELPHIA - - The United States Court of Appeals will soon have a new chief judge.

Effective December 4, Judge Michael A. Chagares will take the reins from outgoing Chief Judge D. Brooks Smith who has served in the post since 2016. Judge Chagares has been a Third Circuit judge since 2006. His roots in the Third Circuit reach back to 1987 when he began a judicial clerkship with the late Judge Morton Greenberg.

“Mike Chagares brings to his new post a deep reservoir of good will,” said Judge Smith about his successor. “He is well-liked by all - - both by his colleagues and court staff. On a court with a collegial tradition like ours, that affection and respect is a priceless personal asset.”

Before arriving on the Third Circuit bench, Judge Chagares was chief of the Civil Division for the U.S.

Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. He also has experience in the private practice of law, and has for many years, been an adjunct professor at Seton Hall University School of Law. Judge Chagares was a member of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules of the U.S. Judicial Conference, and ended his service on the committee in the position of chair.

The Third Circuit is comprised of the federal courts within Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Judge Chagares becomes the first New Jersey judge to serve as Third Circuit Chief since the late John J. Gibbons, who retired from the post in 1990.

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