

Mayor Paul Dyster
City Court Appointment News Conference
June 12, 2008

Good morning, and thank you for joining me.

Six years ago, as a member of the City Council, I publicly and proudly campaigned for a candidate for City Court judge. I supported her because of her integrity, her experience and her devotion to our city. After narrowly losing the election, she threw herself into her work as an assistant district attorney and community advocate.

As Shakespeare wrote, "What's past is prologue."

Today, as mayor of Niagara Falls, I am confronted with the great responsibility of appointing a new City Court judge. Naturally, I am turning to the person I supported so strongly in 2002.

I am proud to announce that I am appointing Diane L. Vitello as our new associate City Court judge. When she takes the bench on June 23, Diane will be our only female City Court judge, and I know she will work tirelessly to protect the residents of Niagara Falls.

Diane has the experience, temperament and strong work ethic that City Court requires. She served for seven years as confidential law clerk to the late Niagara County Family Court Judge Paul V. Crapsi. As a former assistant district attorney and now as an attorney in private practice, she has practiced extensively in Niagara Falls City Court. She is an adjunct criminal justice instructor at Niagara County Community College.

Diane is also a wife and mother, with a strong commitment to our city's future. She is a member of the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, the Niagara Waterfront Revitalization Task Force and the Niagara Heritage Partnership. She is a former board member for the Niagara Community Action Program and United Cerebral Palsy of Niagara.

I know Diane Vitello as a dynamic community leader with the utmost integrity and dedication to upholding the law. When Diane ran for City Court, I publicly supported her because of her devotion to our community. After six years, she is even more qualified and well-suited for the bench. Diane has just the right balance of toughness and compassion to make an outstanding City Court judge.

Proving once again that the best man for the job is often a woman, Diane is my first, last and only choice.

Please join me in welcoming our newest City Court judge, Diane Vitello.