

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**



PRESS RELEASE

**DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE NAMES THE
HONORABLE SAMANTHA D. ELLIOTT NEXT CHIEF JUDGE**

For immediate release

CONCORD (November 3, 2025)—On Saturday, November 1, 2025, the Honorable Samantha D. Elliott became chief judge of the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire, a position created by Congress in 1948. Chief Judge Elliott’s predecessor, Landya B. McCafferty, completed her seven-year term the previous day. Judge Elliott has served as a district judge for almost 4 years. Judge McCafferty will remain in active service on the court.

Judge Elliott was appointed by President Joseph Biden and confirmed on December 15, 2021. She filled the vacancy created by the senior status of Judge Paul Barbadoro. Judge Elliott completed her undergraduate studies at Colgate University, cum laude, and received her law degree from Columbia Law School. From 2006 until 2021, Judge Elliott was a partner at Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell, P.C., in Concord, New Hampshire, where she served as president. Her areas of practice included business and commercial disputes, employment and discrimination, product liability, property rights, and municipal defense in civil rights litigation. She was also active as a board member and volunteer for various legal aid organizations.

The chief judge assumes the position based on seniority and other factors, as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 136. In sum, the chief judge oversees the administrative operations of the court and is regarded as the “first among equals” among the judges of the court.

On assuming the chief judge position, Judge Elliott expressed her gratitude to Judge McCafferty for her service, noting that “Judge McCafferty provided extraordinary leadership to the District Court through several challenges, including the upheaval in court operations caused

by the Covid-19 pandemic. She took responsibility for keeping everyone safe, consulting with experts and following rapidly evolving scientific developments. She has also been an exceptional representative of the court to lawyers, to the public, and especially to our state's schoolchildren during her many civics programs. On behalf of the entire court, I thank Judge McCafferty for her dedication to the District of New Hampshire over the last seven years."

For additional information, please contact Clerk of Court, Tracy Uhrin, at (603) 226-7792.