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NEW JUSTICES HELP MAJOR HOUSING COURT EXPANSION

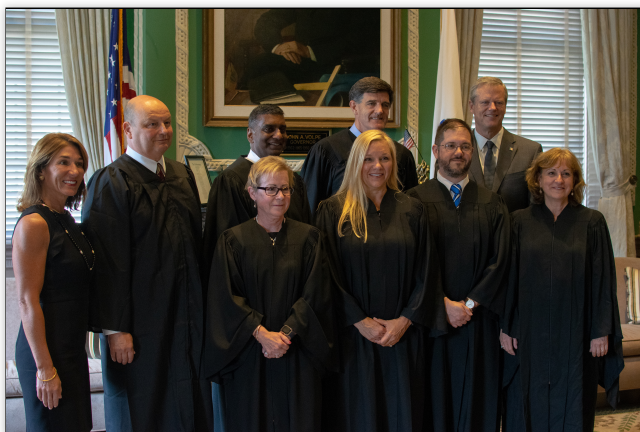
Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito Wednesday brought five newly appointed state Housing Court judges together for a ceremonial swearing in, and their presence on the court marks a 50 percent expansion to bring the court statewide.

While parts of eastern, central and western Massachusetts are currently served by the Court, the expansion brings another two million people under the court's jurisdiction in southern Middlesex County, Norfolk County and the Cape and Islands.

The Housing Court oversees civil and criminal actions that involve the health, safety, or welfare of homeowners or those who live in residential housing. The courts hear eviction cases, small claims cases, civil action suits, and other cases related to residential housing. Led by Chief Justice Timothy Sullivan, the Housing Court now has 15 confirmed judges.

Baker has now appointed Gustavo del Puerto of Salem to serve on the court's Northeastern Division, Donna Salvidio of Worcester and Neil Sherring of Westwood to serve as circuit justices, and Joseph Michaud of Dartmouth and Irene Bagdoian of Westborough to serve on the court's Metro South Division.

During the ceremony, Justice Michaud presented the Governor with a framed collection of John Volpe campaign memorabilia. "I just wanted to thank you Governor," Michaud said. "This is something that will help so many people." - Chris Triunfo/SHNS



Gov. Baker held a ceremonial swearing in for five newly appointed state Housing Court judges, marking a 50 percent expansion to bring the court statewide. [Photo: Chris Triunfo/SHNS]

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