

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 1, 2015**

**The Honorable Collins J. Seitz, Jr. Takes the Oath of Office for  
Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware**

Collins J. (C.J.) Seitz, Jr. was sworn in for his first term as Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware on Monday, May 1, 2015 during a special session of the Supreme Court convened at the Baby Grand in Wilmington.

With his investiture, Justice Seitz follows in a family tradition of public service on the state's highest court, in that his late father, the Honorable Collins J. Seitz, Sr. (1914 – 1998), served on the Delaware Supreme Court from 1949 - 51.

The oath of office was administered to Justice Seitz by Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr. and remarks were made by the Chief Justice; Governor Jack Markell; Virginia Seitz, Justice Seitz's sister, and Bradley Aronstam, Justice Seitz's former law partner.

Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice Seitz was a founding partner of Seitz, Ross, Aronstam & Moritz LLP. In that capacity, he regularly litigated corporate, commercial, and intellectual property cases, and advised clients on issues of Delaware corporate law. Previously, Justice Seitz was a partner at Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP, where he practiced for more than three decades. He is well known in Delaware for his representation of the State in the United States Supreme Court case *New Jersey v. Delaware*, where Delaware prevailed in its claim to ownership of the Delaware River in the Twelve Mile Circle.

In addition to his work in the courtroom, Justice Seitz is actively involved in his community. He is a trustee for the New Castle Presbyterian Church, a board member of the Friends of Hockessin Colored School #107, a former board member and president of the Greater Hockessin Area Development Association, and a former board member and president of Community Legal Aid Society.

Justice Seitz, 57, received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Delaware in 1980. He earned his law degree at the Villanova University School of Law in 1983 and was admitted to the Delaware Bar that same year. He resides with his wife in New Castle.

Justice Seitz's father was a "Judge" of the Delaware Supreme Court as opposed to a "Justice" in that he served on the state's highest court during the years when the court was comprised of sitting trial judges from the Court of Chancery and the Superior Court. (In 1951, following the passage of a state Constitutional Amendment, the Delaware Supreme Court became a separate court with its own Justices.)

In 1952, as Chancellor for the Court of Chancery, Seitz, Sr. made national headlines and legal history in the cases of *Bulah v. Gebhart* and *Belton v. Gebhart* where he ruled that black students in Delaware

were receiving an inferior education under the segregationist doctrine "separate but equal." The cases later went on to become a part of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling in Brown v. Board of Education that ended segregation in all public schools in the United States.

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