



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
1 COURTHOUSE WAY  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210

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**Sarah Allison Thornton**  
CLERK OF COURT

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**March 28, 2013**

The first woman to serve as Clerk of Court for the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, Sarah Allison Thornton, will retire at the end of March 2013. After 18 years practicing law in Maine and 18 years of service to the federal courts (8 years here, and 10 years in North Carolina and New York City), Ms. Thornton has announced her intention to retire and return to Maine.

Chief Judge Patti B. Saris stated: "While March may go out like a lamb, Sarah will go out as the lioness who brought professionalism and talent to the Clerk's Office. We will miss her."

The Judges of the District Court have appointed Robert M. Farrell, to serve in the capacity of Acting Clerk of Court as of April 1, 2013. Mr. Farrell is the current Chief Deputy Clerk and has been in that position since joining the court in February 2010.

Previously, Mr. Farrell served in United States District Court and Probation Department for the Northern District of New York in Albany, the United States Bankruptcy Court and Probation Department for the District of Maine, and the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Ohio. Mr. Farrell earned a BS and a Bachelor of Public Administration from Franklin University in Columbus, OH in 1992 and a Master of Business Administration at the University of Albany in 2007.

The court will initiate its search for a new Clerk of Court by establishing a selection committee of Judges and posting a Vacancy Notice. The Clerk of Court position will be advertised nationally for a minimum of two months before the selection process begins. In addition to print media advertising, the Notice and related materials will be posted on the court's website, <http://www.mad.uscourts.gov> and on <http://www.uscourts.gov>