



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
District of Rhode Island

**NEW CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND**

Effective December 1, 2019, the Honorable John J. McConnell, Jr. assumed the position of Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Chief Judge McConnell, Jr. succeeds Judge William E. Smith, who served as Chief Judge from December 1, 2013 through November 30, 2019. Judge Smith will remain in active service on the Court.

By [statute](#), the chief judge of a federal district court is the most senior active district judge who is under 65 years of age and who has not previously served as chief judge. The term of service is seven (7) years. The chief judge has a leadership role in court management and exercises authority and responsibility to act and speak on behalf of the other district judges in a wide range of management and operational matters.

On January 5, 2011, President Barack Obama nominated Chief Judge John J. McConnell, Jr. to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. The nomination was confirmed by the Senate on May 4, 2011, and he received his commission on May 6, 2011.

Chief Judge McConnell, Jr. received his law degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1983 and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University in 1980. In addition to Chief Judge McConnell, Jr. and Judge Smith, the Court is comprised of Judge Mary S. McElroy, and Magistrate Judges Lincoln D. Almond and Patricia A. Sullivan.

December 1, 2019

Hanorah Tyer-Witek
Clerk of Court