

JOSEPH S. CONTE

Judge of the Superior Court, Retired · Republican Candidate, Bergen County Surrogate

Franklin Lakes, New Jersey · www.josephs-conte.online



PROFILE

A distinguished jurist with more than four decades of service to Bergen County and the State of New Jersey. Twenty years on the bench of the New Jersey Superior Court — Criminal and Civil divisions — including four death-penalty cases, twenty-five-plus murder trials, and seven years as designated Prerogative Writ Judge. The first and only judge in the State of New Jersey to hear Sexually Violent Predator matters. Today serves as Mediator, Arbitrator and Of Counsel at the Ameri Law Firm; Adjunct Professor and Trustee at Bergen Community College; and Councilman of the Borough of Franklin Lakes.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of New Jersey
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey
- United States Supreme Court

EDUCATION

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law — Juris Doctor (1971)

Continuing judicial education, National Judicial College, University of Nevada at Reno

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Civil & Criminal Mediator
- Certified Arbitrator (NJ AOC)
- Approved CLE Instructor — NJ ICLE

DISTINGUISHED HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ 20 years — New Jersey Superior Court, Bergen Vicinage
- ★ 4 death-penalty cases · 25+ murder trials
- ★ First & only NJ judge for Sexually Violent Predator matters
- ★ 7 years — Designated Prerogative Writ Judge
- ★ 12 years — Chair, Bergen County Law Day
- ★ Guest lecturer: Stanford, U. of Virginia, Brooklyn Law
- ★ Elected President — Municipal Judges Association, Bergen County
- ★ Advisor — Sistema Universitario Ana G. Méndez, San Juan, P.R.

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JUDICIAL SERVICE

Superior Court of New Jersey — Bergen Vicinage

1993 – 2013

Criminal and Civil divisions. Presided over four death-penalty cases and 25+ murder trials. Designated Prerogative Writ Judge for seven years. First and only judge in the State of New Jersey assigned to hear Sexually Violent Predator matters.

Municipal Judge — Rochelle Park, NJ

Municipal Bench

Municipal Judge — Wallington, NJ

Municipal Bench

Municipal Judge — Upper Saddle River, NJ

Municipal Bench

Municipal Judge — Ringwood, NJ

Municipal Bench

Public Defender — Paramus, NJ

Early Career

Served on the bench and as a public defender, ensuring every citizen receives a fair hearing.

President — Municipal Judges Association of Bergen County

Elected by Peers

Elected by his peers as President of the Municipal Judges Association representing Bergen County.

Mediator, Arbitrator & Of Counsel — Ameri Law Firm

2013 – Present

Leads the firm's Alternate Dispute Resolution Department, resolving complex civil litigation, land-use, and governmental matters.

ACADEMIC & TEACHING

Adjunct Professor of Law — Bergen Community College

2021 – Present

Teaches Introduction to Criminal Justice and Criminal Law.

Trustee — Bergen Community College

Board of Trustees

Faculty — National Judicial College, U. of Nevada at Reno

Judicial Education

Guest Lecturer — Stanford, U. of Virginia, Brooklyn Law

Invited Speaker

CIVIC & BOARD SERVICE

Councilman — Borough of Franklin Lakes, NJ

Elected 2025

Chair — Bergen County Law Day Committee

12 Years

Board Member — Gift of Life America

Former Board — New Bridge Medical Center

Former Board — Ridgewood Red Cross

Member — Rotary Club, Boys Club, Chamber of Commerce

CANDIDACY

Republican Candidate — Bergen County Surrogate (2026)

Officially endorsed by the Bergen County Republican Organization.

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FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE

