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Former N.J. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz Appointed Visiting Jurist Emerita-in-Residence at Rutgers Law Schools in Camden, Newark

PRINCETON, N.J. - Deborah T. Poritz, who served 10 years as Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court and, more recently, has been Of Counsel at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, has been appointed as Visiting Jurist Emerita-in-Residence at Rutgers School of Law–Newark and Rutgers School of Law–Camden.

Beginning with the Fall 2010 semester at Rutgers–Newark, Poritz will teach courses on the New Jersey Supreme Court in alternating semesters at the two law schools as part of her three-year appointment. Poritz will consult with faculty members on areas of common scholarship, complete a book on the importance of state courts and share her knowledge and experience through special lectures, including the Chief Justice Joseph Weintraub Lecture. In addition to her Rutgers teaching responsibilities, Poritz will continue to be Of Counsel to Drinker Biddle in its Princeton office, where she concentrates her practice in mediation, arbitration and appellate matters.

“I’m looking forward to teaching in the Rutgers law schools,” said Poritz. “The New Jersey Supreme Court has had a significant role in the development of the law, both in New Jersey and nationwide. I am excited to have the opportunity to explore the work of the Court with Rutgers students.”

“We are truly proud to have the Chief as our colleague and to have her knowledge and experience to benefit our clients,” said Jonathan Epstein, Regional Partner in Charge of Drinker Biddle’s Princeton office. “She brings a unique perspective to the practice of law gained from her years as Chief Justice, which will now also inure to the benefit of Rutgers’ students.”

The former Chief Justice is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. After graduation, she joined the office of the New Jersey Attorney General as a Deputy Attorney General in the Division of Law, Environmental Protection Section. She later was named Deputy Attorney General in charge of appeals and Chief of the Banking, Insurance and Public Securities Section. She subsequently served as Assistant Attorney General and Director of the Division of Law.

Poritz was appointed by Governor Christine T. Whitman as New Jersey’s first woman Attorney General in 1994. On July 10, 1996, she took the oath of office as the first woman Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP is a national law firm with 650 lawyers in 12 offices providing client service in areas such as commercial litigation, environment and energy, corporate and securities, corporate restructuring, investment management, health care, real estate, employee benefits and executive compensation, life insurance and annuities, insurance coverage, labor and employment, intellectual property, government and regulatory affairs, communications litigation, products liability and mass tort litigation, and private client services.