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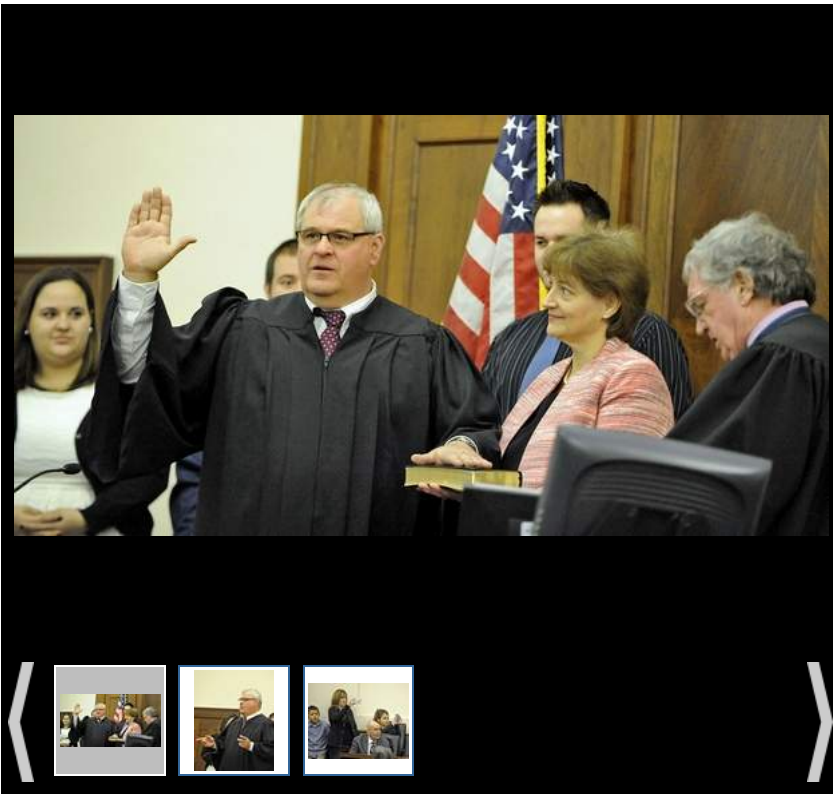
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Langone sworn in as Jefferson County Family Court judge

By BRIAN KELLY
JOHNSON NEWSPAPERS
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JOHNSON NEWSPAPERS PHOTO BY AMANDA MORRISON

Eugene J. Langone III is sworn in Friday as Jefferson County Family Court judge.

WATERTOWN — Surrounded by his own family, freshly installed Jefferson County Family Court Judge Eugene J. Langone III vowed Friday to use his position to protect children in the same manner as he has for more than 25 years as an attorney.

"To me, Family Court is about protecting children in the community in the most basic way possible," Judge Langone said.

Judge Langone, Watertown, was sworn into the office at the County Court complex on Arsenal Street by Judge Richard V. Hunt, who has reached the state's mandatory retirement age of 70 for judges and is retiring after serving 30 years.

Judge Hunt called Judge Langone "a fine person" and "excellent successor."

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"I consider it an honor that I've been asked to swear Gene in," Judge Hunt told the crowd of about 150 people. "The community is very blessed."

"Thank you, Judge Hunt. I'll do my best possible," Judge Langone replied.

Judge Langone thanked his wife, Amy, and children, David, Nicole and John, for their support over the years and during his recent campaign for Family Court judge, which culminated with his defeating fellow attorney Susan A. Sovie, Sackets Harbor, in November's election. Judge Langone also thanked attorney Mark G. Gebo, his law partner for nearly 20 years at Hrabchak Gebo & Langone PC, Watertown.

In addition to having worked extensively on family law matters in Family Court in his private practice, Judge Langone worked six years in the county attorney's office, where he was responsible for the prosecution and trials of juvenile offenders.

At the swearing-in ceremony, Judge Langone introduced Watertown attorney Lisa A. Proven as his law clerk and Julie Pitkin as his secretary.

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