Piazza Ready For Family Court Judgeship
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MAYVILLE - While his career as an attorney has drawn to a close, Jeffrey A. Piazza is ready to take his seat as Chautauqua County's second Family Court judge.

Piazza said his No. 1 priority is to tackle the overwhelming number of Family Court cases, which was the basis for a state-created second judgeship in 2014.

"I'm looking forward to getting to work here and digging right in," he said, noting that he will be in his office as of Friday.

In addition to learning each case, one of Piazza's other priorities will be creating a streamlined process to ensure each one is resolved as efficiently as possible, he said.

Within recent years, judicial hearing officers have traveled from Buffalo in order to assist with Chautauqua County's extra Family Court cases, which will now fall under Piazza's responsibility.

Therefore, he must learn each case as if it were new.

"I'm going to do the best I can to address the caseload with fairness, while giving each case the care and consideration it deserves. I have to get up to speed with each file because even though these files..."
have already started, they're new to me," Piazza said. "I'll be working extra hard to go through them all and bring this caseload under control."

Throughout the course of his campaign, he emphasized that his 20 years of experience representing children and families in Family Court qualified him for the 10-year judgeship.

Issues of custody, visitation, abuse and neglect were matters he had experience with over the course of his career.

In terms of the transition to judge and his new presence in Mayville, he said he will look back on his career fondly.

"I've really enjoyed the private practice of law, and there are some aspects I'll miss, but I'm looking forward to this judgeship. It was a dream of mine, and I worked hard for it," Piazza said. "There are so many good people in Family Court that I'll be working with, and it's going to be a wonderful experience."

Running on Republican, Conservative and Independence party lines, Piazza won 59 percent of votes countywide on Election Day to put him in the seat.

In Mayville, he will join Judge Judith S. Claire, who has served as Family Court judge since 1999. Her term ends in 2018.

Piazza, a lifelong resident of Chautauqua County, lives in Kiantone with is wife, Evelyn, son, Billy and daughter, Ally.

The former firm of Hall & Piazza will now be Hall & Lee Yaw, which is located on Third Street in Jamestown.