

Judge John A. Danaher III

1. Judge of the Connecticut Superior Court

In March 2010, Governor M. Jodi Rell nominated John A. Danaher III to serve as a Judge of the Connecticut Superior Court. His nomination was confirmed by the House of Representatives and thereafter by the Senate on May 5, 2010. On May 10, 2010, he was sworn in as a Judge of the Superior Court. He is currently assigned to the Litchfield seat of court. Since his appointment, Judge Danaher has authored more than two hundred and fifty opinions.

Judge Danaher has served as an instructor at the Connecticut Judges' Institute in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2017. In 2013, he was appointed to serve as a member of the Judicial Department Education Committee. In 2014, Chief Justice Chase Rogers appointed Judge Danaher to represent the Judicial Branch as co-chairman of the Advisory Council for Victims of Crime. In August 2014, Chief Justice Rogers appointed Judge Danaher to the position of Administrative Judge for the Judicial District of Litchfield. In 2015, Judge Danaher was appointed to serve as a member of the Civil Jury Instruction Committee.

Judge Danaher is a contributing author in "Connecticut Criminal Procedure," a treatise published in September 2015. Judge Danaher is the author of Chapter 10, "Right to Counsel," in that treatise.

2. Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Safety

Governor Rell appointed Mr. Danaher to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety on March 5, 2007, where he served until May 9, 2010. In that capacity, Mr. Danaher was responsible for the three divisions of the Department: the Connecticut State Police, the State Forensic Laboratory, and the Division of Fire, Emergency and Building Services. During his tenure, Mr. Danaher supported the development of numerous programs to support and assist the members of the Connecticut State Police, including the development of the Peer Support Program, the State Police Chaplaincy Program, the Military Support Program, and others. He took aggressive steps to diversify the Department, which is composed of approximately 1,700 employees. He oversaw a budget of approximately 168 million dollars and advocated for, and against, numerous bills that were considered by the Connecticut State Legislature.

Numerous significant cases arose during Mr. Danaher's tenure as Commissioner. Cases in which he was personally involved include the Cheshire home invasion case in which three members of the Petit family were murdered (July 2007); the murder of Yale University graduate student Annie Le (September 2009); and the Kleen Energy power plant explosion in which six men were killed (February 2010). Following the Cheshire home invasion case, Governor Rell appointed Mr. Danaher to serve on a commission charged with making improvements to criminal justice information systems. Following the Kleen Energy explosion, Governor Rell appointed Mr. Danaher to serve on a commission charged with determining the cause and origin of the explosion.

3. United States Attorney

Mr. Danaher worked in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut from 1986 to 2007. He served in a variety of capacities with that office, including service as the Deputy United States Attorney and, thereafter, as the United States Attorney from May 2001 through November 2002. During his tenure he co-founded a Crimes Against Children Working Group, served as Antiterrorism Advisory Council Coordinator, International Security Coordinator, Ethics Advisor, Crisis Management Coordinator, Supervisor for the Hartford Weed & Seed Operation, and was a member of the office's Death Penalty Committee.

Mr. Danaher handled a variety of categories of criminal offenses, including cases involving bank fraud, murder, crimes against children, and other federal crimes. He participated in several notable matters, including the prosecution of a terrorist group known as Los Macheteros, an organization that claimed responsibility for various bombings and murders in Puerto Rico. Mr. Danaher was a member of the team that prosecuted 19 members of Los Macheteros for the 1983 armed robbery of 7.1 million dollars from a Wells Fargo depot in West Hartford. In 1990, in recognition of his work in that case, Mr. Danaher was called to Washington, where Attorney General Richard Thornburgh presented Mr. Danaher with the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Danaher also prosecuted the only "murder of a federal employee" case to have been brought in the District of Connecticut.

4. Other

In addition to his career in public service, he also was an Associate Attorney in the Trial Department of Day, Berry & Howard from 1981 to 1986. He began his legal career in 1980 as a law clerk for the Honorable T. Emmet Clarie in the United States District Court, District of Connecticut. Mr. Danaher holds a BA from Fairfield University, an MA from the University of Hartford, and a JD from the University of Connecticut School of Law, where he served as Executive Editor of the Connecticut Law Review. He lives in West Hartford with his wife, Anne. They have four grown children and two grandchildren.