

JUDICIAL DISPATCH



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PRESIDING MEMBER'S MESSAGE



Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy

Dear Judicial Section Members,

Congratulations to our newly elected and appointed judges and those elevated to higher judicial positions. For new judges, we are proud to welcome our newest colleagues to our distinguished ranks.

I am thrilled to report that our Section concluded 2024 on a high note by hosting two virtual CLE programs that were open to attorneys and co-sponsored by the Committee on Technology and the Legal Profession. *"Sweet AI of Mine: Rocking New Technology"* (held in November) and *"Legal Ethics in the Era of GenAI: What Every Judge and Lawyer Needs to Know"* (held in December) were a resounding success and generated revenue for the Section, as well as positive feedback.

The Section also started 2025 on a high note with our Centennial Celebration in January at the New York Hilton Midtown, where we awarded the Distinguished Jurist Award each to Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas, the Advancement of Judicial Diversity Award each to Presiding Justice Dianne T. Renwick, Appellate Division, First Department, and Hon. James L. Hyer, Supreme Court Justice, Westchester County. We also recognized Past Presiding Members for their leadership by presenting them with a commemorative lapel pin for them to wear that Judicial Section Secretary, Hon. Karen M.C. Romano, designed.

I thank Past Presiding Member, Hon. Deborah Karalunas, for swearing in the 2025-2026 slate of officers during our Centennial Celebration. The new officers who commence their term on June 1, 2025 are Hon. Brian D. Burns, Presiding Member; Hon. Karen M.C. Cortes, Assistant Presiding Member; Hon. Danielle M. Fogel, Secretary; and Lourdes M. Ventura, Treasurer. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and steadfast support to our new officers.

We were honored to have Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr., who emphasized the importance of our individual roles in upholding democracy and virtuous conduct in his keynote address, *"A New Dawn for American Democracy,"* at our Centennial Celebration. Dr. Glaude emphasized that "who we take ourselves to be matters," "hatred corrodes the soul," "blocks the way for others, and places us in strait jackets." In closing, he asked, "what kind of human being will you decide to be?" Dr. Glaude's remarks deeply resonated with the audience as we reflect on our oath towards to administer and advance justice.

Not only did Dr. Glaude travel on a red-eye flight from California to join us at noon, he also waived his honorarium and reimbursement of travel expenses to address us. We are forever grateful for his generosity and support of the judiciary and the rule of law. The Section is also grateful to lyric soprano June E. Townes, founder of June E. Townes & GOSPERA, for gracing us with her beautiful voice during this milestone event, celebrating our centennial, and honoring all honorees.

Our final virtual CLE in February 2025, *"Seeing Is Believing? The Legal Challenge of Deep Fakes,"* also open to attorneys and co-sponsored with the Committee on Technology and the Legal Profession, was another resounding success with over 200 registrants. As GenAI continues to transform the le-

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The *Judicial Dispatch* is our newsletter ... by us, for us. We welcome submissions on topics of interest to the members of our Section. If you have an article or announcement, you would like considered for publication, please send it in electronic format to Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones, Editor, at jquinone@nycourts.gov.

As always, a heartfelt thank you to **Hon. Deborah Karalunas**, Former Presiding Member and Former Editor of The Judicial Dispatch, and to **Kirsten Downer, Esq.**, NYSBA Liaison to the Judicial Section, for their unwavering commitment to the Judicial Section and for their incredible efforts with this issue of The Judicial Dispatch. Many thanks to the NYSBA Section Publications staff for their assistance issue after issue.

To receive future complimentary paper editions of The Judicial Dispatch, you must be a member of NYSBA's Judicial Section.

The views expressed in the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of NYSBA, or the Judicial Section and its Officers.

PRESIDING MEMBER'S MESSAGE

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gal landscape, it is imperative that we judges, as well as attorneys and law students, keep abreast of technological advancements. These seminars provided insightful discussions on the evolving role of GenAI in the legal profession, equipping us with the knowledge necessary to navigate the emerging challenges and opportunities presented by this rapidly advancing technology while ensuring that technology enhances rather than undermines the core values of our justice system. Once again, I thank the Committee on Technology and the Legal Profession for joining us as co-sponsors and the CLE presenters for sharing their time and expertise.

As I near the end of my tenure as Presiding Member, I thank my fellow Officers, Assistant Presiding Member Hon Brian D. Burns, Section Secretary Hon. Karen M.C. Romano, and Section Treasurer Hon. Danielle M. Fogel, whom I affectionately coin "*The Dream Team*" for their unwavering support and embrace of "*Justice in the 21st Century: New Visions, New Realities – A New Dawn of Justice*" as the theme for our 2024-2022 term. I also thank our liaison, Kirsten Downer, Esq., for her invaluable assistance.

Lastly, I thank my Appellate Division, First Department colleague, and Past Presiding Member, Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick, for approaching me four years ago to ask whether I was interested in serving as Section Treasurer, with the understanding that I would move up the leadership ranks each year and eventually become Presiding Member. I thoroughly enjoyed my work with the Section over these four years, which allowed me to meet and work with judges throughout the state whom I would not otherwise have met.

I encourage each of you to remain engaged with the Section, share your talents, and lend your voices to the important discussions shaping the future of our legal system. Your experience and insights are essential for the continued vitality of our Section.

With deep appreciation and best wishes,

Tanya R. Kennedy
Presiding Member



Membership in the Judicial Section

I invite you to join NYSBA and OUR Judicial Section. United as one body, we strive to promote, ensure and deliver justice. We work hard to make membership in the Judicial Section valuable and rewarding. So please join the more than 300 judges at all levels of the state and federal judiciary who already enjoy the many privileges afforded by their affiliation with NYSBA and the Judicial Section.

NYSBA provides a wide array of programs and services to keep attorneys and judges well informed and connected. The Judicial Section addresses issues unique to the duties, responsibilities and welfare of the judiciary. Our Section also provides a forum for representatives of the Council of Judicial Associations to address issues important to the Judiciary including legislation and court procedure. Among the other benefits of membership in our Section are:

- free access to CasePrepPlus's entire library of advance sheets, as well as unlimited access to all archives
- a discount to attend the Judicial Section Annual Meeting luncheon
- a complimentary copy of the *Judicial Dispatch*, the only newsletter in New York State written by judges for judges
- unparalleled camaraderie among our State's guardians of the law

Beginning Jan 1, 2025, NYSBA members get two (2) complimentary Section memberships with their NYSBA membership.

Visit nysba.org/membership for more information or contact our **Member Resource Center at (800) 582-2452, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. EST**

The New York Bar Foundation

The New York Bar Foundation plays an important role in ensuring access to justice in New York State. Your generous support makes it possible for the New York Bar Foundation to provide support to legal services organizations, nonprofits, bar associations and other charitable initiatives, and offers the bench and the bar an opportunity invest in their own community.

Please join the efforts of the many law firms, individuals and corporations that have generously contributed to The New York Bar Foundation by making a gift online at www.tnybf.org/donation

For further information, please contact Foundation Executive, Deborah A. Auspelmeyer, at **(518) 487-5650** or at dauspelmeyer@tnybf.org.

JUDICIAL SECTION RECEPTION & LUNCHEON 2025 – A RECAP

By: Kirsten Downer, Esq., NYSBA Judicial Section Liaison

*Honoring Tradition, Shaping the Future: NYSBA Judicial Section Centennial Celebration
Justice in the 21st Century: New Visions, New Realities – A New Dawn of Justice*

Judicial Section Presiding Member Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy welcomed everyone to the Section's Centennial Celebration, which took place on Friday, January 17, 2025, at the New York Hilton Midtown. Attended by more than 290 individuals, this Reception & Luncheon was the perfect opportunity to reflect on the Section's history, celebrate its leaders, and renew its commitment to the principles and values guiding judges. In concert with the event's theme (above), each table was designated with one of the occasion's guiding principles, e.g., justice, ethics, integrity, wisdom, liberty, virtue, etc.

Presiding Member Kennedy next invited Hon. Deborah Karalunas, former Judicial Section Presiding Member and current Administrative Judge for the Fifth Judicial District, to swear in the 2025-2026 slate of officers who begin their term on June 1: Hon. Brian D. Burns Supreme Court, Otsego County, *Presiding Member*; Hon. Karen M.C. Cortes, Family Court, Bronx County, *Assistant Presiding Member*; Hon. Danielle M. Fogel, Supreme Court, Onondaga County, *Secretary*; Hon. Lourdes M. Ventura, Appellate Division, Second Department, *Treasurer*.

After a brief break for lunch, the celebratory portion of the day's events began with Presiding Member Kennedy acknowledging the birthday of Hon. Edwina Richardson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives. Judge Richardson was welcomed to the stage, where, to the delight of all present, Presiding Member Kennedy serenaded Judge Richardson with a rousing version of Stevie Wonder's "Happy Birthday."

NYSBA President Domenick Napoletano was then invited to the podium to deliver opening remarks, during which he saluted the Judicial Section for its 100 years of advancing the profession. President Napoletano mentioned that the Judicial Section is NYSBA's oldest section, laying the groundwork for the other Sections. He went on to acknowledge today's judges' challenges to personal security and the increasing use of AI in the legal sphere. President Napoletano ended his remarks by congratulating the incoming officers and renewing his commitment to assist the Section in whatever way possible.

In honor of the Section's centennial and as a tribute to its Past Presiding Members and honorees, June E. Townes, founder of June E. Townes & GOSPERA, delivered a captivating rendition of "The Impossible Dream" which was met with thunderous applause. Presiding Member Kennedy then took a moment to honor the Section's Past Presid-

ing Members for their service, referring to them as "pillars of integrity and catalysts for progress." Past Presiding Members were then invited to join Presiding Member Kennedy and Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson on stage where the audience acknowledged them. Present were: Hon. Gregory R. Gilbert (2023-2024); Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones (2022-2023); Hon. Denise Hartman (2021-2022); Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick (2020-2021); Hon. James P. Murphy (2019-2020); Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers (2018-2019); Hon. Rachel Kretser (2013-2014); Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas (2011-2012); Hon. Leonard Austin (2007-2008); Hon. Robert Julian (2005-2006); and Hon. Michelle Weston (1997-1998). Those Past Presiding Members who were present were presented with a decorative centennial commemorative lapel pin designed by Hon. Karen M.C. Cortes, Secretary of the Judicial Section.

This year, the Judicial Section selected two honorees as *Distinguished Jurist Award* recipients. *The Distinguished Jurist Award goes to a jurist who embodies the highest ideals of the Judicial Section and recognizes judicial excellence and extraordinary commitment to the rule of law.* Judicial Section Assistant Presiding Member Hon. Brian D. Burns welcomed the first honoree, Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas, by mentioning that morale amongst judges had never been higher. Chief Administrative Judge Zayas, in turn, mentioned how special this award was because of the presence of his son and his fellow honoree, Chief Judge Wilson. He humbly accepted the award on behalf of his friends and colleagues who provided invaluable advice, quoting scripture when he said, "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers, they succeed."



Judicial Section Presiding Member **Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy** presents the Distinguished Jurist Award to Chief Judge **Hon. Rowan D. Wilson**



Kirsten Downer, Esq.

Presiding Member Kennedy spoke to the strength of character, ethics, and values of the second *Distinguished Jurist Award* honoree when she introduced Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and reminded the audience of his historic achievement as the first African American Chief Judge of the New York State. In an acceptance speech rife with humor, Chief Judge Wilson also paid generous tribute to the individuals and colleagues around him who provided support and counsel.

This year, the Section also selected two honorees as *Advancement of Judicial Diversity Award* recipients. *The Advancement of Judicial Diversity*





Judicial Section Assistant Presiding Member **Hon. Brian D. Burns** (right) presents the Distinguished Jurist Award to **Chief Administrative Judge Hon. Joseph A. Zayas**



Chief Administrative Judge Hon. Joseph A. Zayas



Judicial Section Secretary **Hon. Karen M.C. Cortes** (left) presents the Advancement of Judicial Diversity Award to **Hon. Dianne T. Renwick**, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department



Chief Judge Hon. Rowan D. Wilson (center) with Judicial Section Past Presiding Members: **Hon. Michelle Weston** (1997-1998); **Hon. Leonard Austin** (2007-2008); **Hon. Rachel Kretser** (2013-2014); **Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers** (2018-2019); **Hon. James P. Murphy** (2019-2020); **Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick** (2020-2021); Presiding Member **Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy**; **Hon. Denise Hartman** (2021-2022); **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones** (2022-2023); **Hon. Gregory R. Gilbert** (2023-2024); and **Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas** (2011-2012)



Judicial Section Treasurer **Hon. Danielle M. Fogel** (right) presents the Advancement of Judicial Diversity Award to **Hon. James L. Hyer**, Justice of the Supreme Court, Westchester County



Presiding Member **Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy** gives opening remarks at the 2025 Judicial Section Luncheon



NYSBA President Domenick Napoletano gives welcome remarks

JUDICIAL SECTION RECEPTION & LUNCHEON 2025 – A RECAP

Award recognizes individuals for their efforts to promote diversity on the bench throughout New York State. Recipients embody NYSBA's commitment to diversity and inclusion at all levels of the judiciary. Judicial Section Treasurer Hon. Danielle M. Fogel introduced the first honoree, Hon. James L. Hyer, NYS Supreme Court, Westchester County, by summarizing his many accolades. Justice Hyer expressed how proud he was to be part of the court system and his enthusiasm for making the system better and ensuring access to justice. Justice Hyer also acknowledged the support of important individuals in his life and closed by highlighting the need to embrace diversity, stating, "It makes us all stronger."

Judicial Section Secretary Hon. Karen M.C. Cortes introduced the second *Advancement of Judicial Diversity Award* honoree, Presiding Justice Dianne T. Renwick, Appellate Division, First Department, the first woman of color to serve as Presiding Justice of any Appellate Division in New York State.

Presiding Justice Renwick expressed how grateful she was to receive this recognition from her colleagues and peers and acknowledged the remarkable men and women who paved the way for her. Presiding Justice Renwick concluded by emphasizing that the court system is far better prepared to deliver justice when it reflects the communities it serves.

This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr., James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor, African American Studies, Princeton University. Dr. Glaude thanked Presiding Member Kennedy for inviting him and congratulated the honorees before turning to his theme, "A New Dawn for American Democracy." In his poignant and timely remarks, Dr. Glaude recommended that each person re-commit themselves to preserving democracy while eschewing hatred and fear. Dr. Glaude posited that democracy requires more from each of us

and that we all need to become better people. Dr. Glaude cautioned against giving in to hatred and retreating to political silos, which only serve to block the way to a greater understanding of each other.

After this thought-provoking message, Presiding Member Kennedy closed the Section's Centennial Celebration by heartily thanking everyone who contributed to the event's success, including colleagues, friends, and family members, particularly her mother and godmother, who were present to support her.

The 2025 Judicial Section Reception & Luncheon provided a unique opportunity to celebrate the Section's 100 years of service by recognizing its leaders and accomplishments and rededicating itself to continued service. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and to be inspired. We look forward to seeing you all next year!



Presiding Member **Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy** marks the birthday of **Hon. Edwina G. Richardson**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, with a rousing rendition of Stevie Wonder's "Happy Birthday"



Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr., James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor, African American Studies, Princeton University (center) with the Officers of the Judicial Section



Past Presiding Member **Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas**, Administrative Judge for the Fifth Judicial District, (far left) administers the oath of office to the 2025-2026 Judicial Section officers (from l-r): **Hon. Brian D. Burns**, Presiding Member; **Hon. Karen M.C. Cortes**, Assistant Presiding Member; **Hon. Danielle Fogel**, Secretary; and **Hon. Lourdes M. Ventura**, Treasurer



June E. Townes, founder of June E. Townes & GOSPERA, delivered a captivating rendition of "The Impossible Dream"



A packed house at the 2025 Judicial Section Luncheon



Members of the Latino Judges Association at the 2025 Judicial Section Luncheon



2025 Judicial Section Luncheon attendees (l-r): **Hon. Denise Sher**, **Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden**, and **Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch**



Members of the Court of Claims at the 2025 Judicial Section Luncheon



Members of the Asian American Judges Association of New York at the 2025 Judicial Section Luncheon



2025 Judicial Section Luncheon attendees (l-r): **Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick**, **Hon. Michael Sonberg**, and **Hon. Manuel J. Mendez**



2025 Judicial Section Luncheon attendees (l-r): **Hon. Alvin Yearwood**, **Hon. Michelle A. Johnson**, **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**, **Hon. Claudia Daniels-Depeyster**, and **Hon. Richard Rivera**

UPDATES ON THE COURT MODERNIZATION ACTION COMMITTEE (CMAC) AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE COURTS

By: Hon. Patria Frias-Colón

Honorable Patria Frias-Colón is currently assigned to the Kings County Supreme Court, Civil Term. She is Co-Chair of the Court Modernization Action Committee and a member of the Court's Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts.

Court Modernization Action Committee (CMAC)

The CMAC is a working group of stakeholders from both inside and outside the court system that seeks to advance court technology and other modernization efforts in the post-pandemic landscape. The CMAC was formed to track and assist in the implementation of goals set forth in the 2022 report of the former Pandemic Practices Working Group. This report set forth fourteen goals for court modernization, which built on lessons learned during the pandemic and centered on improving the court system's accessibility, functionality, and efficiency. The CMAC's primary objectives include promoting use of virtual proceedings, supporting improvements in courtroom technology, and increasing digital resources available to court users for them to successfully navigate their cases in a remote, hybrid, or in-person environment.

In the past year, the Unified Court System (UCS) has undertaken, and the CMAC has supported, many initiatives advancing these goals. One of the most significant achievements was the rollout of a one-year pilot of the NY-Virtual Court Appearance Platform (NY-VCAP) in courts across the state. NY-VCAP is a videoconferencing platform built specifically to host virtual court proceedings and promises to enhance experiences of court users, staff, and judges alike. UCS also initiated a redesign of the court system's website, seeking to make it more user-friendly. Additionally, 2024 saw passage of legislation long sought by the UCS, and supported by the CMAC, to expand e-filing to all New York courts. Finally, the court system continued to make significant progress with the physical modernization of courtrooms through the Courtroom Modernization Initiative (CMI). To assist in implementing these advancements and more, the UCS successfully secured a substantial judiciary budget with a significant increase in technology funds.

Looking ahead, the CMAC has identified several priorities for 2025, including gathering feedback on judges' and court users' experiences with NY-VCAP, tracking the expansion of e-filing, building on outreach to the court system's legislative partners, and continuing to develop and conduct trainings on virtual proceedings. Additionally, the CMAC will continue to collaborate with the UCS and external organizations to expand accessi-

bility of court services to court users, especially those who are self-represented. A special emphasis will be placed on modernization efforts in New York's Family, Housing, and Town & Village Courts, where improved service delivery has the potential to impact the largest number of litigants.

CMAC Chair, Co-Chairs and Project Manager:

1. Chair Hon. Craig Doran, Ontario County Supreme Court, 7th Judicial District (Ret.)
2. Co-Chair Hon. Patria Frias-Colón, Kings County Supreme Court, Civil Term, 2nd Judicial District
3. Co-Chair Scott Reents, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, of Counsel
4. Co-Chair William Silverman, Proskauer Rose LLP Partner
5. Project Manager, Christine Sisario, NYS UCS Director of Court Technology

The CMAC mission is advanced by its implementation Task Groups. Each Task Group and respective leaders are included below:

1. Court Management, led by Hon. James P. Murphy, DCAJ, Courts outside NYC
2. Financial, led by Maureen McAlary, OCA Director of Budget and Finance; Kyle Van Zutphen, OCA Senior Budget Analyst
3. Law and Policy, led by Hon. Raymond L. Rodriguez, Administrative Judge, Richmond County Supreme Court, Civil and Criminal
4. Technology, led by Christine Sisario, NYS UCS Director of Technology
5. Training, led by Hon. Craig D. Hannah, Associate Justice Appellate Division, Fourth Department

New York State Unified Court System's Statewide Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence:

Last April, the New York State court system announced a statewide advisory panel to study how the potential implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) could improve justice in our courts and ways to avoid ethical risks posed by the new technology. This Blue-Ribbon Task Force is charged with studying AI's vast potential toward improving the delivery of justice. The Advisory Committee on AI and the Courts has been commissioned by Court Administration to study the practical, legal, and ethical risks posed by AI technology.

The Advisory Committee has the following Co-Chairs:



Hon. Patria Frias-Colón

1. Hon. Angela G. Iannacci, Associate Justice Appellate Division, Second Department
2. Attorney Stuart Levi, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom Partner
3. Professor Jason M. Schultz, New York University School of Law

The Co-Chairs established subcommittees to advance the Advisory Committee's mission. The subcommittees and respective chairs include:

1. Access to the Courts, chaired by William Silverman, Partner at Proskauer Rose LLP and Co-Chair, UCS Court Modernization Action Committee
2. Bias and Equity, chaired by Diana Colón, Special Counsel for Guardianship Matters and Elder Justice in the Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives
3. Court Administration and Management, chaired by Karl Pflanz, Principal Law Clerk to Chief Administrative Judge Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
4. Evidence, Authenticity, and Reliability, chaired by Hon. Stan Pritzker, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Third Department and member of the Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Strategic Initiative Jurisdiction Team with the National Courts and Sciences Institute
5. Generative AI in Lawyering and Dispute Resolution, chaired by Paul Gupta, Partner at Rimon Law and Co-Chair of the NYSBA's Technology Committee's Dispute Resolution Section
6. Knowledge, Proficiency, and Professional Responsibility, chaired by Hon. Vito DeStefano, Administrative Judge of the 10th Judicial District

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE: THE LATINO JUDGES ASSOCIATION

By: Hon. Javier E. Vargas

Honorable Javier E. Vargas is a Judge of the Court of Claims and serves as Treasurer of the Latino Judges Association.

In 2025, the Latino Judges Association (LJA) proudly commemorates its 40th anniversary, marking four decades of unwavering commitment to progress, advocacy and representation in the judiciary. The New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), the oldest and largest voluntary state bar association in the nation (The Birth of the New York State Bar Association – New York State Bar Association), and the LJA, the earliest-founded Latino judicial association in the Nation, both advocate for the representation of diverse voices in the legal system. As the LJA commemorates its 40th anniversary, we reflect on its remarkable journey, the profound impact of its members, and the enduring mission that continues to shape the legal landscape for future generations.

Over the past forty years, the LJA has exponentially grown in numbers and expanded its reach as a multifaceted organization serving as a vital forum for addressing issues pertinent to Latino judges. The association actively encourages judicial service among historically under-represented communities, provides mentoring for new judges and Latinx attorneys on the process of becoming a judge, conducts a speaker's series at high schools on the role of the judiciary,

recognizes the achievements of Latino judges and others, and educates the public about the judicial system and the role of the LJA. About Us – Latino Judges Association. A cornerstone of the LJA's mission is to promote and expand access to judicial office for members of the Latino community and to foster their advancement within the judiciary. In light of recent challenges to issues of diversity, equity and inclusion, the LJA reaffirms its commitment to this core principle. Today, with over 112 members, we continue excelling in our work while championing representation across all levels of the judiciary.

LJA Founding Judicial Members in 1985: [standing from the left] Judges Donald Grajales, Joseph Torres, Cesar Quiñones, Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Luis A. Gonzalez, Jaime A. Rios, Charles Tejada, Frank Torres, Raul Figueroa; [seated from the left left] Judges Nicholas Figueroa, Gilbert Ramirez, Irma Vidal Santaella and John Carro

A Legacy of Representation and Advocacy

Established in 1985, the Latino Judges Association, originally known as the Association of Judges of Hispanic Heritage, emerged in response to the need for greater Latino representation within the judicial system. At the time, Latino jurists faced systemic barriers to judicial appointments and professional advancement, often navigating a legal environment that



Hon. Javier E. Vargas

lacked sufficient diversity and cultural competency. A dedicated and courageous group of 13 Latinx judges got together in 1985 to form the LJA, including, among other luminaries, the Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick and Hon. Luis A. Gonzalez, who later were respectively appointed as the first Hispanics at the New York State Court of Appeals - the highest tribunal of New York State - and Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department. The formation of the LJA provided a unified voice to advocate for inclusion, mentor aspiring legal professionals,



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE: THE LATINO JUDGES ASSOCIATION

and address issues of bias and inequality within the court system and community at large.

Over the years, the Association has been instrumental in fostering a pipeline of Latino legal talent, working closely with law schools, bar associations, like the NYSBA, and community organizations to ensure that Latinos are not only represented but vested in the judicial system. <https://www.nydailynews.com/2024/10/19/expand-options-for-n-y-latino-judges/>. In conjunction with the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), LJA members enthusiastically participate every year in the HNBA Uvaldo Herrera Moot Court National Competition on the brief and oral argument panels organized by the HNBA Judicial Division, providing law students around the Nation with opportunities to practice their writing and arguing skills to become better attorneys in the future. Moreover, the LJA continues to host its Summer Internship Program, providing pivotal opportunities for law students to work under the supervision of jurists in New York City, New York State, and the Federal Courts. And this year, the association expanded its internship program to include internship opportunities during the spring and fall semesters, which focus on appellate and trial work. theljaf.org. These internships are instrumental in fostering a new generation of legal professionals

committed to diversity and excellence in the judiciary. LJA Internship Program – Latino Judges Association.

Milestones and Achievements

The past four decades have been marked by significant achievements that underscore the association's mission and influence. Some of the most notable milestones include:

- **Judicial Appointments and Leadership:** Many of the LJA's members have ascended to positions of judicial prominence, including appointments to state and federal courts. Their presence has helped shape legal discourse on issues ranging from criminal justice reform and the enactment of protocols for virtual proceedings to pay parity with federal counterparts. Among the groundbreaking appointments of our LJA members are Court of Appeals Associate Judge Ciparick, the first Hispanic appointed to that court in 1993; Presiding Justice Luis M. González and the Hon. Rolando Acosta, who were the first and second Latino Presiding Justices of the Appellate Division, First Department; the Hon. Hector LaSalle, first Latino Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, who was recently honored

with the 2023 NYSBA Distinguished Jurist Award (Justice LaSalle Honored at NYSBA's Annual Meeting 2023 - New York State Bar Association); and the Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels, the first Latina appointed to the Appellate Division, First Department, also honored in 2023 with the NYSBA Advancement of Judicial Diversity Award, and in 2022, with the HNBA Judge of the Year Award. New York State Bar Association Presents Distinguished Jurist Award to Presiding Justice Hector LaSalle - New York State Bar Association.

For decades, the HNBA advocated and lobbied for the appointment of a Hispanic Justice to the U.S. Supreme Court, and on May 26, 2009, President Barack Obama appointed Justice Sonia Sotomayor, a prior LJA member, as the third woman and first Hispanic to serve on the Supreme Court. Other long-time LJA members appointed to the federal bench are the Hon. Dora L. Irizarry, former Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, appointed in 2004; the Hon. Analisa N. Torres, whose father and grandfather were New York State judges, to the Southern District of New York, as well as the Hon. Nelson S. Roman to the Eastern District of New York, appointed in 2013; and the Hon. Ramon E. Reyes, Jr., who was appointed by President Joseph Biden in 2023.

Another groundbreaking appointment occurred in May 2023, when New York's Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson appointed long-time LJA member, Justice Joseph A. Zayas as the Chief Administrative Judge of the New York State Unified Court System. And, just recently, NYSBA's Judicial Section presented its 2025 Distinguished Jurist Award to these two top court officers: Chief Judge Wilson and Chief Administrative Judge Zayas at the 2025 Hilton Conference. (New York State Bar Association's Judicial Section Honors Jurists for Excellence and Advancement of Diversity – New York State Bar Association; NYSBA's 2025 Judicial Section Event Highlights).

Not to mention the extremely successful year from 2022 to 2023, when our former LJA President, the Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones, a Justice of the Kings County Supreme Court, served as the first Latina Presiding Member of the Judicial Section of the NYSBA (Judge Quinones named Presiding Member of Judicial Section of NYSBA). During her tenure she not only continued and enhanced the Section's programs as its Presiding Member, but also re-launched the Judicial Dispatch, the Section's newsletter, by serving simultaneously as its Editor. Justice Quiñones continues to serve as the Section's Communications Officer and as Ed-



LJA Founding Judicial Members in 1985: [standing from the left] **Hon. Donald Grajales, Hon. Joseph Torres, Hon. Cesar Quiñones, Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Hon. Luis A. Gonzalez, Hon. Jaime A. Rios, Hon. Charles Tejada, Hon. Frank Torres, Hon. Raul Figueroa;** [seated from the left left] **Hon. Nicholas Figueroa, Hon. Gilbert Ramirez, Hon. Irma Vidal Santaella and Hon. John Carro**

itor of the Judicial Dispatch, which has remained successful and is published semi-annually.

- Legislative and Policy Advocacy:** The LJA has played a critical role in advocating for policies and at legislative hearings – within our ethical constraints – that promote the enactment of laws benefiting judicial efficacy and efficiency, judicial diversity, equal access to justice, and the implementation of virtual proceedings protocols. Throughout the years, we have addressed correspondence to governing bodies of matters of interest to the members, and in 2020, LJA then President, Associate Justice Manzanet-Daniels, wrote an Overview of Latinos/Hispanics in the NYS Judiciary Report, confirming the disparate lack of representation of Latinos in the New York State Judiciary and the need to take corrective action. <https://latino-judgesassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/overview-of-latino-judges-2020-updated-with-preamble.pdf>. Notably, the LJA produced a comprehensive documentary chronicling the History of Latino Judges in New York State. This two-hour film, titled The LJA History Project, was created over several years and aims to preserve and highlight the contributions of Latino judges throughout the state's history. <https://history.nycourts.gov/events/lja-history-project-documentary-chronicling-history-of-latino-judges-in-nys/>; manhattantimesnews.com.
 - Mentorship and Professional Development:** Recognizing the importance of guidance and support, the LJA has fostered mentorship programs that connect seasoned judges with newly appointed and elected judges. As a long term HNBA member and current LJA Treasurer, Justice Vargas has corroborated with both associations and organized for the last six years a Pathways to the Judiciary program during the HNBA Annual Conferences, featuring judges with diverse backgrounds and judicial positions and from different states. The program encourages and provides guidance to aspiring attorneys and law students on how to become a judge and offer invaluable insights into the judicial profession. Past participants, like the Hon. Maria Evangelista, has credited the Pathways program with encouraging her to run for election successfully as a Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court in California. Judge Maria E. Evangelista – Professional Background & Legal Expertise | Trellis.Law; Bridge Builder.
- In addition, the LJA has been deeply involved in Continuing Legal Education, providing courses to attorneys and judges free

of charge in a wide variety of legal practice areas and procedures. This year we have expanded our summer Judicial Internship Program to the academic year in the Spring and the Fall to reach more law students and enhance our legal pipeline. Through our Judicial Internship Programs, mentorship initiatives, and judicial advocacy, the LJA has transformed the landscape of judicial leadership, ensuring that the bench reflects the diverse communities it serves.

- Community Engagement:** Beyond the courtroom, LJA has engaged with community service organizations and provided resources to underserved communities, and has supported initiatives that promote civic engagement among our members. LJA has also engaged with local high schools through its bilingual LJA High School Speaker Series program aiming to motivate high school students to continue their education while offering insight into careers in the legal profession.

Challenges and the Road Ahead

Despite its achievements, the work of the Latino Judges Association remains as critical as ever. Latino representation in the judiciary, while significantly improved, still falls short of reflecting the demographics of the broader population, especially throughout the Midwest and Southern belt states, except Texas and Florida. Persistent challenges, such as implicit bias in judicial

selection processes, barriers to career advancement, and the underrepresentation of Latinos in appellate and federal courts, underscore the continued need for advocacy.

Looking ahead, the LJA remains steadfast in its commitment to broadening opportunities for Latino legal professionals, strengthening its mentorship networks, and championing judicial policies that promote fairness and equity. The next generation of Latino judges will build upon this foundation, ensuring that the judiciary remains a bastion of justice for all.

A Moment of Celebration and Reflection

The 40th anniversary of the Latino Judges Association is not merely a celebration of longevity but a reaffirmation of purpose. LJA kicked off this milestone with its annual Three Kings Day Celebration honoring the trailblazers who paved the way, recognizing the achievements of those currently serving on the bench, and inspiring future generations to pursue judicial excellence.

As we mark this milestone in 2025, we pay tribute to the resilience, dedication, and vision of the LJA and its members. Their contributions have strengthened the judiciary, enriched the legal profession, and reinforced the principles of justice and equality upon which our system of government stands. Despite current dark clouds, the future is bright, and the Latino Judges Association in solidarity with the NYSBA will undoubtedly continue to shape the course of our shared legal history for years to come.



LJA founding members, Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick and Hon. Luis M. Gonzalez on January 10, 2025

SECTION MEMBERS AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AT WORK ... AND PLAY



On September 4-6, 2024, the Surrogates Association held its educational seminar in Lake George, NY. Here, the Association's president, **Hon. Vincent Versaci**, Surrogate, Schenectady County, addresses the audience.



September 9, 2024 – Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission presents “Everything You Need to Know about Becoming a Federal Judge” (l-r): **Hon. Jennifer E. Willis**; **Hon. Hector Gonzalez**; **Hon. Pamela K. Chen**; **Hon. Andrew L. Carter**; and FHW Commissioner Tom Garry, Esq.



Past Presiding Member **Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick**, Appellate Division, First Department, moderates a CLE program at the annual conference of the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York (AJSCSNY) in September 2024



Kings County Justices pose with Chief Judge **Hon. Rowan D. Wilson** at the annual conference of the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York in September 2024



CLE Program – “How to Avoid Reversals: Practical Tips from Justices of the Appellate Divisions” (l-r): **Hon. Donald A. Greenwood** (AD4); **Hon. Tracey A. Bannister** (AD4); **Hon. Eddie J. McShan** (AD3); **Hon. Lourdes M. Ventura** (AD2); **Hon. Paul Wooten** (AD2); **Hon. Linda Christopher** (AD2); **Hon. Ellen Gesmer** (AD1); and **Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick** (AD1)



Bronx County Justices pose with **Chief Judge Hon. Rowan D. Wilson** at the AJCSNY annual conference in September 2024



Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick is announced as the raffle winner at the AJCSNY President's Dinner Dance



Members of the Latino Judges Association in attendance at the AJCSNY annual conference



Supreme Court Justices and guests enjoy an evening of karaoke during the AJCSNY 2024 annual conference

SECTION MEMBERS AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AT WORK ... AND PLAY



Hon. Frank Caruso presents AJSCSNY President **Hon. Verna Saunders** with a bouquet of flowers at the AJSCSNY President's Dinner Dance



Paddleboard and hiking excursions at the AJSCSNY 2024 annual conference



Hon. Linda Christopher (left) and **Hon. Verna Saunders** (right) pose with students and teachers from the Lynn Academy of Irish Dance at the AJSCSNY President's Dinner Dance



September 19, 2024 - LCOS Induction Ceremony (l-r): **Hon. Betty Lugo**; **Hon. Cheryl J. Gonzales**; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; Major Erica Prosper (LCOS President); **Hon. Wanda Negron**; **Hon. Doris Gonzalez**; **Hon. Nestor Diaz**



Hon. Hector D. LaSalle, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, serves as the keynote speaker at the induction ceremony of the Latino Court Officers Society on September 19, 2024



Members of the judiciary at the Franklin H. William Judicial Commission's Hispanic Heritage Month program in the Seventh Judicial District (l-r): **Hon. Fatimat O. Reid**; **Hon. Michael C. Lopez**; **Hon. Maria Cubillos-Reed**; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; **Hon. William Taylor**, Administrative Judge; **Hon. Kristine Demi-Vasquez**; **Hon. Richard Rivera**; **Hon. Craig Doran**; **Hon. Alecia Mazzo**; **Hon. Jack Elliott**



Assembled guests at the New York Bar Foundation's Leadership Laureate event

SECTION MEMBERS AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AT WORK ... AND PLAY



The corps of past presidents of the New State Magistrates Association was on hand at their annual conference in Niagara Falls to teach courses and help with the administrative necessities of the educational offerings.

Back row (l-r): **Hon. Allan E. Pohl**, Bristol (2000); **Hon. Jonah Triebwasser**, Red Hook (2020, 2021); **Hon. Dennis W. Young**, East Otto (2023); **Hon. Amel S. Jowdy**, Cambria (2014); **Hon. Michael A. Petucci**, Herkimer (2019); **Hon. Thomas R. Dias**, Ancram (2006); **Hon. Gary A. Graber**, Darien (2013); **Hon. Karl E. Manne**, Herkimer (2022); **Hon. Edward G. Van Der Water**, Van Buren (2010); **Hon. Timothy J. Cooper**, Evans (1998)

Front row (l-r): **Hon. David S. Gideon**, DeWitt (2018); **Hon. Peter D. Barlet**, Warwick (2012); **Hon. Kenneth Ohi Johnson**, Day (2024); **Hon. Sherry R. Davenport**, Summerhill (2017); **Hon. David O. Fuller, Jr.**, Tuckahoe (2007)



In October 2024, the Dutchess County Magistrates Association (DCMA) welcomed the Honorable William J. Giacomo, Supervising Judge of the Ninth Judicial District Town and Village Courts as their guest speaker. Judge Giacomo spoke about the latest developments in school bus camera cases.

(l-r): DCMA President and New York State Magistrates Association (NYSMA) Vice-President **Hon. Barbara Seelbach** (Town of Clinton); **Hon. William J. Giacomo**, Supervising Judge of the Ninth Judicial District Town and Village Courts; NYSMA President-Elect **Hon. Susan Sullivan Bisceglia** (Town of LaGrange); New York State Association of Magistrates Court Clerks Director Cindy Paraggio (Town of LaGrange); and NYSMA Past-President **Hon. Jonah Triebwasser** (Village of Red Hook)



On October 29, 2024, the New York Bar Foundation and its President, Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department, honored Stephen P. Younger, Esq. with its prestigious Force for Justice Award during its inaugural Leadership Laureate event held at Dunnington Bartholow & Miller in NYC. This significant occasion also celebrated the appointment of the Honorable Adam Silvera as the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts and launched the Foundation's new Leadership Laureate series. Both Justice Silvera and Attorney Younger are esteemed Fellows of the New York Bar Foundation.

Stephen P. Younger, recipient of the Foundation's Force for Justice Award, Foundation President **Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers**, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department; **Hon. Michael J. Garcia**, Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals; **Hon. Edwina G. Richardson**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives; and Cole Younger



Hon. Adam Silvera, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts, gives special remarks



Edward F. Cox, New York State Republican Party Chairman speaks with **Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick**, former Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals



Chief Administrative Judge Hon. Joseph A. Zayas gives welcome remarks at the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission's Diversity Awards Ceremony on November 12, 2024



NYSBA President Domenick Napoletano (far left), **Hon. Jonah Triebwasser** (Village of Red Hook Justice) and Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall (on right) welcome two new American citizens at the Constitution Day Naturalization ceremony in Poughkeepsie



Members of the judiciary at the 2024 SOMOS Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico



November 7, 2024 - Members of the judiciary participate in a panel discussion entitled "Equity on the Bench: Judicial Reforms that Advance Diversity and Representation" at the SOMOS Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Pictured (l-r): NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda; **Hon. Fiordaliza A. Rodriguez**; District Attorney Darcel Clark; Tracee Davis, Esq.; District Attorney Eric Gonzalez; **Hon. Rowan D. Wilson**; **Hon. Joseph A. Zayas**; **Hon. Bianka Perez**; and **Hon. Wanda Negron**

SECTION MEMBERS AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AT WORK ... AND PLAY



The "last sit" of **Hon. Jeffrey Oing**, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department, who retired from the bench in December 2024. Pictured (l-r): Kevin Oing, **Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy**, **Hon. Troy K. Webber**, Mary Hom, **Hon. Jeffrey Oing**, **Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick**, and Mary Oing



(l-r): **Chief Administrative Judge Hon. Joseph A. Zayas** and Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle** at the annual Brooklyn Bar Association dinner



(l-r): **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; Sherry Levin Wallach, Esq.; **Hon. Adam Silvera**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for NYC Courts; and **Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix** at the annual Brooklyn Bar Association dinner



Judicial colleagues ring in the holidays together (l-r): **Hon. Maria Vasquez-Doles**; **Hon. Rita Mella**; **Hon. Betsy Barros**; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; and **Hon. Jeanette Ruiz**

December 10, 2024 - the 43rd Toney, Rivers & Watson Gala of the Judicial Friends Foundation held at the Tribeca Rooftop



(l-r): Justices of the Appellate Division, Second Department – **Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix** (ret.); **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**; **Hon. Helen Voutsinas**; **Hon. Betsy Barros**; **Hon. William Ford**; **Hon. L. Priscilla Hall** (ret.); **Hon. Paul Wooten**; **Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers** (Honoree); **Hon. Phillip Hom**; **Hon. Valerie Brathwaite Nelson**; **Hon. Carl Landicino**; **Hon. Lillian Wan**; **Hon. Janice A. Taylor**



(l-r): **Hon. Guy Mitchell**; **Hon. Michelle A. Johnson**; **Hon. Alvin Yearwood**; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; **Hon. Craig S. Walker**; **Hon. Claudia Daniels-Depeyster**



(l-r): Sherry Levin Wallach, Esq.; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; **Hon. Betsy Barros**; **Hon. Lillian Wan**; **Hon. Sabrina Kraus**



(l-r): Josh Silber, Esq.; **Hon. Bianka Perez**; **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**

On December 10, 2024, there was a “Historic Sit” at the Appellate Division, Second Department marking the first time in the in the history of the NYS Unified Court System that a panel of Justices included two Asian American jurists: **Hon. Lillian Wan** and **Hon. Phillip Hom**.



Historic Sit at AD2 (l-r): **Hon. Phillip Hom**; **Hon. Robert Miller**; **Hon. Randall Eng** (former Presiding Justice); **Hon. Mark Dillon**; and **Hon. Lillian Wan**

SECTION MEMBERS AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AT WORK ... AND PLAY



Members of the judiciary attend the holiday party of the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association on December 17, 2024



Members of the judiciary at the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission's holiday party on December 17, 2024 (l-r): **Hon. Javier E. Vargas**; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; **Hon. Richard Rivera**; **Hon. Llinét M. Rosado**; **Hon. Michael C. Lopez**



The Justices of the Appellate Term for the Second, Eleventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts at the Term's Holiday Party on December 17, 2024 (l-r): **Hon. Cheree Buggs**; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; **Hon. Marina Cora Mundy**; **Hon. Lisa S. Ottley**; **Hon. Wavny Toussaint** (Presiding Justice)



Past and present members of Appellate Term for the 2nd, 11th and 13th Judicial Districts (l-r): former Presiding Justice **Hon. Michael L. Pesce**; **Hon. Cheree Buggs**; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; **Hon. Marina Cora Mundy**; **Hon. Lisa S. Ottley**; Presiding Justice **Hon. Wavny Toussaint**; former Presiding Justice **Hon. Thomas P. Aliotta**



Members of the Latino Judges Association at the Association's annual Three Kings Day Celebration held at the Appellate Division, Second Department on January 10, 2025



Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick and **Hon. Luis A. Gonzalez**, two of the thirteen founders of the Association of Judges of Hispanic Heritage (now the Latino Judges Association) display a photo of the Association's founders

The annual Second Judicial Department reception honoring the Department's retiring justices was held at Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle on December 18, 2024.



Presiding Justice **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**, Appellate Division, Second Department recognizes **Hon. Valerie Brathwaite Nelson** (center) and **Hon. Janice A. Taylor**



Hon. Michelle A. Johnson, Administrative Judge, Queens County Criminal Term recognizes **Hon. Richard Latin** (left) and **Hon. Stephen Knopf** (center)



Hon. Lawrence Knipel, former Administrative Judge of Kings County Civil Term (far right) recognizes (l-r): **Hon. Cheryl J. Gonzales**; **Hon. Katherine Levine**; **Hon. Francois A. Rivera**; and **Hon. Rupert Barry**



(l-r): **Hon. Matthew D'Emic**, Administrative Judge, Kings County Criminal Term recognizes **Hon. Edward King**



Hon. Andrew Crecca, District Administrative Judge, Tenth Judicial District, Suffolk County, (far right) recognizes (l-r): **Hon. Timothy Mazzei**; **Hon. Frank Tinari**; **Hon. Marian Tinari**; **Hon. Deborah Poulos**; and **Hon. John Leo**



(l-r): **Hon. Vito M. DeStefano**, Administrative Judge, Tenth Judicial District, Nassau County, recognizes **Hon. Jeffrey A. Brown**; **Hon. Randy Sue Marber**; and **Hon. Gary Carlton**



Attendees at the annual Second Judicial Department reception (l-r): **Hon. Lourdes Ventura**; **Hon. Helen Voutsinas**; **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**; **Hon. Joseph A. Zayas**; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; **Hon. Raymond L. Rodriguez**; **Hon. Betsy Barros**; **Hon. Lumarie Maldonado-Cruz**; **Hon. Elena Goldberg-Velazquez**

SECTION MEMBERS AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AT WORK ... AND PLAY

Members of the judiciary attend the New York State Bar Association's President's Gala at the Plaza Hotel on January 16, 2025



(l-r): **Hon. Shahabuddeen Ally** (Administrative Judge, NYC Civil Court); **Hon. Alicea Elloras-Ally** (Supervising Judge, Family Court, Queens County); **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones** (Supreme Court, Kings County); **Hon. Rowan D. Wilson** (Chief Judge of the State of New York and the New York Court of Appeals); **Hon. Edwina G. Richardson** (Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives), Administrative Judge for the Fifth Judicial District **Hon. Alison M. Hamanjan**, (Supervising Judge, Family Court, Bronx County)



The annual meeting of the New York Chapter of the National Association of Women Judges at the NY Hilton on January 17, 2025



Members of the judiciary at the Induction Ceremony of the Dominican Bar Association on January 17, 2025, where **Hon. Lourdes Ventura** gave the keynote address and **Hon. Bianka Perez** administered the oath of office



The "last sit" of **Hon. Anil C. Singh**, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department, who retired from the bench in April 2025. Pictured (l-r): **Hon. Cynthia S. Kern**, **Hon. Martin Shulman**, **Hon. Anil C. Singh**, **Hon. Saliann Scarpulla**, and **Hon. David Friedman**



Black and Latino Men in the Bronx Judiciary (l-r): **Hon. Timothy Lewis**; **Hon. Guy Mitchell**; **Hon. Seth Steed**; **Hon. George Villegas**; **Hon. Alvin Yearwood** (Administrative Judge, Supreme Court, Criminal Term); **Hon. E. Deronn Bowen**; **Hon. Raymond Bruce**

On February 4, 2025, the Judicial Friends Association in partnership with the Metropolitan Black Bar Association hosted its annual Celebration of Black Judges at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Courthouse in Manhattan.



Members of the Judicial Friends Association at the 2025 Celebration of Black Judges



Members of the Divine 9 at the annual Celebration of Black Judges

SECTION MEMBERS AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AT WORK ... AND PLAY

Members of our courts participate in the 2025 national celebration of Read Across America



(l-r): Judges and court attorneys celebrate Read America with students and teachers at PS 274 in Bushwick, Brooklyn on March 3, 2025 – Ms. Adams (assistant principal); Ms. Smith (teacher); Ms. Sarjeant (teacher); Ms. Caraballo (school librarian); Kwok Kei Ng, Esq. (court attorney); Ms. Molina (teacher); Olivia Nacionales (assistant law clerk); **Hon. Nancy Bannon**; **Hon. Betsey Jean-Jacques**; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; Kemar Hermitt, Esq. (principal law clerk); **Hon. Javier Ortiz**; Ronald Cosme, Jr., Esq. (principal law clerk); Danielle Noel, Esq. (special referee). For the past 12 years, members of the bench and bar have celebrated Read Across America at PS 274. This year's PS 274 Read Across America theme was "Carnival: A Celebration of Reading."



Hon. Nancy Bannon, Supreme Court, New York County



Hon. Betsey Jean-Jacques, Family Court, New York County



(l-r): **Hon. Nancy Bannon**; Olivia Nacionales; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; Danielle Noel, Esq.; and Kemar Hermitt, Esq.



Hon. Dianne T. Renwick, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, First Department



Hon. Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Judge of the State of New York and the New York State Court of Appeals



Chief Judge **Hon. Rowan D. Wilson** assists Presiding Justice **Hon. Dianne T. Renwick** with adjusting her hat



(l-r): Members of the judiciary participate in Read Across America at The Family School in the Bronx on March 7, 2025 – **Hon. Julio Rodriguez, III**; **Hon. Nelida Malave-Gonzalez**; **Hon. Biana Perez**; **Hon. Bahaati Pitt-Burke**; **Hon. Fiordaliza Rodriguez**; **Hon. Alvin Yearwood**; **Hon. Taisha L. Chambers**; Chief Judge **Hon. Rowan D. Wilson**; **Hon. Dianne T. Renwick**; **Hon. Janette Cortes-Gomez**; **Hon. Alicia Gerez**; **Hon. Veronica Guerrero**; **Hon. Karen M.C. Cortes**; **Hon. Lisa Daley**; **Hon. Llinét M. Rosado**; **Hon. Shawn Kelly**; **Hon. Joseph Capella**; and **Hon. Michele Davila**



Hon. Hector D. LaSalle, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department, with Governor Kathy Hochul



Hon. Nelson Roman, NYS Governor Kathy Hochul, **Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick**

On March 10, 2025, nearly 30 Latino judges, including **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department, were honored by New York State Governor Kathy Hochul at a private reception held at the Executive Mansion in Albany, New York. Governor Hochul also made special presentations to **Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick**, who received the Governor's Medal of Public Service in tribute to the life and legacy of Carol Robles-Román, Esq., the late wife of **Hon. Nelson Roman**. The theme of the evening was "Justice in Action."



Latino Judges from across New York State honored by New York State Governor Kathy Hochul at a special "Justice in Action" reception held at the Executive Mansion in Albany, New York



Hon. Raymond L. Rodriguez, Administrative Judge, Richmond County and **Hon. Joanne D. Quinones**, Supreme Court, Kings County

SECTION MEMBERS AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AT WORK ... AND PLAY



LJA members attend “A Conversation Between Firsts” at the Appellate Division, First Department (l-r) **Hon. Walter Rivera**; **Hon. Myrna Socorro**; **Hon. Marissa Soto**; **Hon. Joseph Capella**; **Hon. Keshia Espinal**; **Hon. Angela Badamo**; **Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels**; **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department; **Hon. Lizbeth Gonzalez**; **Hon. Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor**; and **Hon. Betty Lugo**



(l-r) **Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels**; **Hon. Bahaati Pitt-Burke**; and **Hon. Dianne T. Renwick**

On March 24, 2025, in celebration of Women’s History Month, the Appellate Division hosted a fireside chat entitled “A Conversation Between Firsts” featuring Presiding Justice **Hon. Dianne T. Renwick** and Associate Justice **Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels**, who made history as the first Black Woman and Latina, respectively, to be appointed to the Appellate Division, First Department. The program was moderated by Associate Justice **Hon. Bahaati Pitt-Burke**.



Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels delivers dresses to the Bronx College and Transition Access Center’s Prom Boutique Initiative

On March 14, 2025, the Latino Judges Association, through the efforts of past president, **Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels**, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department, participated in the Bronx College and Transition Access Center’s Prom Boutique Initiative.

Members of the judiciary enjoying theater on “Broadway”



(l-r): **Hon. Abayomi Ajaiyeoba** (Family Court, Kings County); **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones** (Supreme Court, Kings County); **Hon. Betsey Jean-Jacques** (Family Court, New York County)



(l-r): **Hon. Sadia N. Graham** (Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings); **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; **Hon. Abayomi Ajaiyeoba**; and **Hon. Betsey Jean-Jacques**

On April 11, 2025, members of the judiciary participated in a speed-mentoring event with students from Roosevelt High School. The speed-mentoring component was held at the Joysetta and Julius Pearce African American Museum in Nassau County and was part of a two-week program entitled "Links International Foreign Affairs and Business Empowerment for Youth (LIFE)" hosted by the Long Island (NY) Chapter of The Links, Inc. The speed-mentoring component was coordinated by **Hon. Andrea Phoenix**, a member of the bench and the Long Island Chapter of The Links, Inc., together with **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**.



(l-r): **Hon. Geoffrey N. Prime**; **Hon. Madeleine Petrara-Perrin**; **Hon. Tricia M. Ferrell**; **Hon. Darlene D. Harris**; **Hon. Andrea Phoenix**; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; **Hon. Anthony W. Paradiso**; **Hon. Maxine S. Broderick**; and **Hon. Sean Wright**

Upcoming Programs/Events of Interest

Portrait Unveiling of the Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin

New York City Bar Association

May 6, 2025

Catholic Lawyers Guild of Kings County Annual Dinner

(Judicial Honorees: Hon. Genine D. Edwards, Hon. Lara J. Genovesi,
Hon. Francois A. Rivera, Hon. Dineen Riviezzo)

May 15, 2025

Women's Bar Association of the State of New York

(Judicial Honorees: Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas, Hon. Brenda Freedman, Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff)
Harbor Hotel, Watkins Glen, NY

May 15-18, 2025

Latino Judges Association Foundation Annual Reception

(Judicial Honorees: Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones and Hon. Francois A. Rivera)

June 5, 2025

Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York Fall Conference

Woodcliff Hotel and Spa, Fairport, NY

September 13-17, 2025

Court of Claims Judges Fall Conference

Marriott Hotel, Syracuse, NY

October 27-29, 2025

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Appellate Term



Hon. Joseph R. Conway

Congratulations to **Hon. Joseph R. Conway**, who was appointed to the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court, Second Department, Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts on October 1, 2024.

Appellate Term



Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones

Congratulations to **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**, who was appointed to the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court, Second Department, Second, Eleventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts on October 1, 2024.

Administrative Judge and Statewide Judicial Appointments



Hon. Michelle A. Johnson

Administrative Judge, Queens County Supreme Court – Criminal Term

Congratulations to **Hon. Michelle A. Johnson**, who was appointed Administrative Judge of the Criminal Term of Queens County Supreme Court on October 2, 2024.

Administrative Judge and Statewide Judicial Appointments



Hon. Suzanne J. Adams

Administrative Judge, New York County Supreme Court – Civil Term

Congratulations to **Hon. Suzanne J. Adams**, who was appointed Administrative Judge of the Civil Term of New York County Supreme Court on October 17, 2024.



Hon. Genine D. Edwards

Administrative Judge, Kings County Supreme Court – Civil Term

Congratulations to **Hon. Genine D. Edwards**, who was appointed Administrative Judge of the Civil Term of Kings County Supreme Court on December 9, 2024.



Hon. Raymond L. Rodriguez

Administrative Judge, Richmond County Supreme Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Raymond L. Rodriguez**, who was appointed Administrative Judge of the Richmond County Supreme Court on December 9, 2024.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS



Hon. Shahabuddeen Ally

Administrative Judge, New York City Civil Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Shahabuddeen Ally**, who was appointed Administrative Judge of New York City Civil Court on December 9, 2024.



Hon. Debra J. Young

Statewide Coordinating Judge for Problem-Solving Courts

Congratulations to **Hon. Debra J. Young**, who was appointed Statewide Coordinating Judge for Problem-Solving Courts on February 25, 2025.



Hon. Amy C. Martoche

Administrative Judge, Eighth Judicial District

Congratulations to **Hon. Amy C. Martoche**, who was appointed Administrative Judge for the Eighth Judicial District on April 2, 2025.

Supervising Judge Appointments



Hon. Christina L. Ryba

Administrative Judge, Third Judicial District

Congratulations to **Hon. Christina L. Ryba**, who was appointed Administrative Judge for the Third Judicial District on April 24, 2025.



Hon. Ben Darvil, Jr.

Supervising Judge, Richmond County Family Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Ben Darvil, Jr.**, who was appointed Supervising Judge of Richmond County Family Court on December 4, 2024.



Hon. Alicea Elloras-Ally

Supervising Judge, Queens County Family Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Alicea Elloras-Ally**, who was appointed Supervising Judge of Queens County Family Court on December 4, 2024.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Supervising Judge Appointments



Hon. Alison M. Hamanjian

Supervising Judge, Bronx County Family Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Alison M. Hamanjian**, who was appointed Supervising Judge of Bronx County Family Court on December 4, 2024.



Hon. Gilbert Taylor

Supervising Judge, Kings County Family Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Gilbert Taylor**, who was appointed Supervising Judge of Kings County Family Court on December 4, 2024.



Hon. Taisha L. Chambers

Supervising Judge, Bronx County Civil Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Taisha L. Chambers**, who was appointed Supervising Judge of Bronx County Civil Court on January 6, 2025.



Hon. L. Austin D'Souza

Supervising Judge, NY County Civil Court

Congratulations to **Hon. L. Austin D'Souza**, who was appointed Supervising Judge of New York County Civil Court on January 6, 2025.



Hon. Ira R. Greenberg

Supervising Judge, Queens County Civil Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Ira R. Greenberg**, who was appointed Supervising Judge of Queens County Civil Court on January 6, 2025.



Hon. Edwin I. Novillo

Supervising Judge, Queens County Criminal Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Edwin I. Novillo**, who was appointed Supervising Judge of Queens County Criminal Court on January 6, 2025.



Hon. Carmen A. Pacheco
Supervising Judge, Kings County Civil Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Carmen A. Pacheco**, who was appointed Supervising Judge of Kings County Civil Court on January 6, 2025.



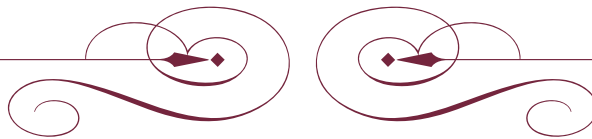
Hon. Frances Ortiz
Supervising Judge, Kings County Housing Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Frances Ortiz**, who was appointed Supervising Judge of New York County Housing Court on January 6, 2025.



Hon. Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor
Supervising Judge, Bronx County Criminal Court

Congratulations to **Hon. Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor**, who was appointed Supervising Judge of Bronx County Criminal Court on February 28, 2025.



COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to **Hon. Douglas E. Hoffman** (ret.), who was appointed Chair of the Housing Court Advisory Council by **Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas** on January 24, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Seth Marnin**, who was named Co-Chair of the Permanent Commission on Access to Justice by **Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson** on March 18, 2025. Judge Marnin will serve alongside current Co-Chairs **Hon. Christina Ryba** and Janet Sabel, Esq.

Congratulations to **Hon. Peter J. Kelly**, who was named Co-Chair of the Surrogate's Court Advisory Committee (SCAC) by **Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas** on March 21, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Charles M. Troia**, who was appointed Co-Chair of the Guardianship Advisory Committee (GAC) by **Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas** on March 21, 2025. Judge Troia will serve alongside current Co-Chair **Hon. David Guy, Surrogate**, Broome County.

Congratulations to **Hon. Deborah S. Kearns** on her appointment to the SCAC on March 21, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff** on her appointment to the GAC on March 21, 2025.

Congratulations to **Peter H. Moulton**, Appellate Division, First Department, who was appointed to the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct by **Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson** on April 21, 2025.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department, who was honored by the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association at their Hispanic Heritage Month event on October 1, 2024.



Presiding Justice **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle** gives remarks at the BWBA Hispanic Heritage Month event on October 1, 2024

Congratulations to **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department, who was presented with the Trailblazer in Law Award at the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration of the Second Judicial District Equal Justice Committee on October 2, 2024. The 2024 Hispanic Heritage Month theme was "Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together."

Congratulations to **Hon. Richard Rivera**, Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Matters, who was presented with the Henry B. Northup Award for Excellence in Enhancing Equal Justice in the Courts at the Northup Award Ceremony held at the Washington County Courthouse on October 17, 2024.



Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones and Chief David Salazar present **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department, with the Trailblazer in Law Award at the 2nd JD EJC Hispanic Heritage Month event



Northup Award Ceremony (l-r): **Hon. Kris Singh**, **Hon. Norman St. George**, **Hon. Richard Rivera**, **Hon. Edwina G. Richardson**, **Hon. Teneka Frost**, and **Hon. Kate Hogan**

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to **Hon. Joseph A. Zayas**, Chief Administrative Judge, who was honored by the Rockland County Bar Association at their Annual Gala on October 23, 2024.



Presiding Justice **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle** (center) with members of the Latino Judges Association at the 2024 DBA Scholarship Gala



(l-r): **Hon. Eric Gonzalez**, District Attorney, Kings County; **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**; and **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**

Congratulations to **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department, who was presented with the Judicial Excellence Award by the Dominican Bar Association of Nassau County at their 21st Annual Scholarship Gala October 26, 2024.

Congratulations to **Hon. Norman St. George**, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, who was presented with the Paul J. Widlitz Award by the Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County at their annual installation dinner on October 30, 2024.

Congratulations to **Hon. Keshia Espinal**, Supervising Judge, Criminal Court, Kings County, who was honored by the Kings County Criminal Bar Association at their Annual Dinner in October 2024.

Congratulations to **Hon. Alvin Yearwood**, Administrative Judge, Criminal Term, Bronx County, who was presented with the Beatrice Tomlinson Award at the 56th Annual Awards Dinner Dance of The Tribune Society on November 6, 2024.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Joyce Y. Hartsfield, Esq., former Executive Director of the FHW Commission, presents the Hon. Lewis L. Douglass Founders Award to **Hon. Yvonne Lewis**

Congratulations to **Hon. Yvonne Lewis** (ret.), who was presented with the **Hon. Lewis L. Douglass** Founders Award by the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on November 12, 2024.

Congratulations to **Hon. Stephen K. Lindley**, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, who was presented with the Pipeline to Equity in Legal Education and the Profession Award by the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on November 12, 2024.

Congratulations to **Hon. Rowan D. Wilson**, Chief Judge of the State of New York and the New York Court of Appeals, who was recognized as the Guest of Honor at the Fall Judicial Gala of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association held on November 13, 2024 at The National Museum of the American Indian in New York City.



Chief Judge Hon. Rowan D. Wilson delivers remarks at the NYSTLA Fall Judicial Gala



Members of the judiciary at the NYSTLA Fall Judicial Gala (l-r): **Hon. Cassandra A. Johnson**, **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**, **Hon. Lisa Lewis**, **Hon. John A. Howard-Algarin**, **Hon. Wanda Negron**, **Hon. Wavny Toussaint**, **Hon. Bianka Perez**, **Hon. Sharifa Nasser-Cuellar**, **Hon. Diomarys Escaño-Bell**, and **Hon. Inga M. O'Neale**



NYSTLA President Victora Wickman, Esq., with newly elected judges (l-r): **Hon. Mark Kagan**, **Hon. Abayomi Ajaiyeoba Whint**, **Hon. Inga M. O'Neale**, **Hon. Lisa Lewis**, **Hon. Sharifa Nasser-Cuellar**, **Hon. Turquoise Haskin**, **Hon. Amish R. Doshi**, **Hon. Scott Kropminger**, **Hon. Dawn Guglielmo**, **Hon. Alice Tam Tien**, **Hon. Harold E. Bahr**, and **Hon. Cassandra Johnson**

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



(l-r): Seth Koslow, Esq., Executive Vice President of the QCCBA; **Hon. Michael J. Yavinsky**; Richard Sikes, Esq., President of QCCBA

Congratulations to **Hon. Michelle A. Johnson**, Administrative Judge, Criminal Term, Queens County, who was named 2024 Judge of the Year by the Queens County Criminal Bar Association at its inaugural dinner and awards night on November 21, 2024.

Congratulations to **Hon. Michael J. Yavinsky**, Supreme Court – Criminal Term, Queens County, who was presented with the Founders' Award by the Queens County Criminal Bar Association at its inaugural dinner and awards night on November 21, 2024.

Congratulations to **Hon. Keshia Espinal**, Supervising Judge, Criminal Court, Kings County, who was presented with the Distinguished Judicial Service Award by the Brooklyn Bar Association at their Annual Dinner on December 2, 2024.



(l-r): Anthony Vaughn, Jr., Esq. President, Brooklyn Bar Association; **Hon. Keshia Espinal**; **Hon. Tamiko Amaker**, Administrative Judge, NYC Criminal Court; Christina Golkin, Esq., President-Elect, Brooklyn Bar Association



Hon. La Tia W. Martin; **Hon. Milton A. Tingling**; and **Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers** with their awards at the annual dinner of the Judicial Friends Foundation

Congratulations to **Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers**, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department; **Hon. La Tia W. Martin**, Supreme Court, Bronx County; and **Hon. Milton A. Tingling**, County Clerk, New York County, who were honored for their contributions to the judicial and legal community by the Judicial Friends Foundation at the 43rd Toney, Rivers & Watson Gala of the Judicial Friends Foundation held at the Tribeca Rooftop on December 10, 2024.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Members of the NYSBA family at the annual gala of the Judicial Friends Foundation (l-r): Susan L. Harper, Esq.; Domenick Napoletano, Esq.; Seymour James, Esq.; **Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers** (Gala honoree); Taa Grays, Esq.; Sherry Levin Wallach, Esq.; Stephen P. Younger, Esq.



Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers proudly displays her award



Hon. Cheryl J. Gonzales, President of the Judicial Friends Association, presents **Hon. La Tia W. Martin** with her award



Hon. Cheryl J. Gonzales, President of the Judicial Friends Association, presents **Hon. Milton A. Tingling** with his award

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Jawan Finley, Esq., President of the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association, presents the Hon. Leroy B. Kellan Award to **Hon. Michelle A. Johnson**

Congratulations to **Hon. Michelle A. Johnson**, Administrative Judge, Criminal Term, Queens County, who was presented with the Hon. Leroy B. Kellan Award by the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association at their holiday party on December 17, 2024.



Hon. Joseph E. Capella, **Hon. Joseph A. Zayas**, and **Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels** with their awards at the NYSBA Trial Lawyers Section annual awards reception



Chief Judge **Hon. Rowan D. Wilson** administers the oath of office to AJCSNY President **Hon. Frank Caruso**

Congratulations to **Hon. Joseph A. Zayas**, Chief Administrative Judge, who was presented with the Betty Friedlander Award by the NYSBA Trial Lawyers Section at their annual awards reception on January 16, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels**, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department, who was presented with the Justice Irma Videl Santaella Award by the NYSBA Trial Lawyers Section at their annual awards reception on January 16, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Joseph E. Capella**, Administrative Judge, Civil Term, Bronx County, who was presented with the Peter Kopf Award by the NYSBA Trial Lawyers Section at their annual awards reception on January 16, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Frank Caruso**, who was sworn in as President of the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court on January 17, 2025.



Incoming AJCSNY President **Hon. Frank Caruso** presents a plaque to outgoing President **Hon. Verna Saunders** for her outstanding service to the Association

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Chief Judge Hon. Rowan D. Wilson administers the oath to the 2025 AJCSNY officers (l-r): **Hon. Bianka Perez**, **Hon. Christina Ryba**, **Hon. Ellen Spodek**, **Hon. Nancy Koba** and **Hon. Maria Vásquez-Doles**

Congratulations to **Hon. Bianka Perez**, **Hon. Christina Ryba**, **Hon. Ellen Spodek**, **Hon. Nancy Koba** and **Hon. Maria Vásquez-Doles**, who were sworn in as officers of the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court on January 17, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. E. Jeanette Ogden**, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, who was sworn in as President of the New York Women Judges on January 17, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Norman St. George**, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, who was presented with the Hon. Theodore Jones Legacy Award at the 35th Annual Program to Commemorate Black History Month held at the New County Supreme Courthouse on February 27, 2025.



Chief Judge Hon. Rowan D. Wilson administers the oath to the 2025 AJCSNY Board of Directors



Hon. Shirley Troutman administers the oath of office to NYWJA President **Hon. E. Jeanette Ogden**



JLG Gala Honorees **Hon. Joseph A. Zayas** (far left) and **Hon. Shlomo S. Hagler** (far right) with presenters **Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick** and **Hon. Marty Shulman**



Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick presents the Golda Meir Memorial Award to **Hon. Joseph A. Zayas** at the JLG Gala



Lenore Kramer, Esq. presents the Lenore Kramer Women's Advocacy Award to **Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick**



Hon. Marty Shulman presents the Benjamin N. Cardozo Award to **Hon. Shlomo S. Hagler** at the JLG Gala



Members of the Appellate Term, First Department at the 2025 JLG Gala (l-r): **Hon. Alexander Tisch** and **Hon. Ta Tanisha James** with honoree, **Hon. Shlomo S. Hagler**

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to **Chief Administrative Judge Hon. Joseph A. Zayas**, who was presented with the Golda Meir Memorial Award at the 46th annual gala of the Jewish Lawyers Guild (JLG) on April 1, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Shlomo S. Hagler**, Presiding Justice, Appellate Term, First Department, who was presented with the Benjamin N. Cardozo Award at the JLG Gala on April 1, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Hilary Gingold**, Surrogate, Queens County, who was presented with the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Award at the JLG Gala on April 1, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas**, Administrative Judge, Fifth Judicial District, who was presented with the Syracuse University Law Honors Award on April 3, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Suzanne J. Adams**, Administrative Judge, Civil Branch, New York County, who was presented with the Betty Weinberg Ellerin Mentor Award by the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) on April 9, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Suzanne J. Adams**, Administrative Judge, Civil Branch, New York County, who was presented with the Judge Harold Baer, Jr. Award at the Network of Bar Leaders (NOBL) Annual Awards Reception and Dinner on April 22, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Adam Silvera**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts, **Hon. Joseph E. Capella**, Administrative Judge, Bronx County, Civil Term, and **Hon. Marguerite A. Grays**, Administrative Judge, Queens County, Civil Term, who will each be presented with the William Goldstein Memorial Award for distinguished service to the court at the 2025 annual dinner of the Association of Law Secretaries on April 29, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Alexis Riley**, who will be presented with the Faith O'Neal Memorial Award by the Association of Law Secretaries on April 29, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Diomarys Escaño-Bell**, **Hon. Allison Greenfield**, **Hon. Scott Krompinger**, **Hon. Peter F. Lane**, **Hon. Alexis Riley** and **Hon. Alice Tam Tien**, who will be recognized as Gavel Recipients at the annual dinner of the Association of Law Secretaries on April 29, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department, who will be honored with the Judicial Excellence Award at the annual dinner of the Asian American Judges Association of New York (AAJANY) on May 6, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Shahabuddeen Ally**, Administrative Judge, New York City Civil Court, who will be presented with the AAPI Trailblazer Award at the AAJANY annual dinner on May 6, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Genine D. Edwards**, Administrative Judge, Civil Term, Kings County, **Hon. Consuelo Mallafré Melendez** and **Hon. Ellen Spodek**, who will each be presented with the Jeanette Brill Excellence Award by the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association Foundation on May 8, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Lumarie Maldonado-Cruz**, Supreme Court, Queens County, who will be honored by the Puerto Rican Bar Association on May 13, 2025 at their 2025 Flor de Maga Dinner.

Congratulations to **Hon. Genine D. Edwards**, Administrative Judge, Civil Term, Kings County, who will be presented with the Ecumenical Award at the annual dinner of the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Kings County (CLG) on May 15, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Lara J. Genovesi**, Appellate Division, Second Department, who will be presented with the St. Thomas More Award at the CLG annual dinner on May 15, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Francois A. Rivera**, Supreme Court, Kings County, who will be presented with the Hon. William T. Bellard Award at the CLG annual dinner on May 15, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Dineen Riviezzo**, Court of Claims, who will be presented with the Distinguished Judiciary Award at the CLG annual dinner on May 15, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Paul Wooten**, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, who will be presented with the Jurist of the Year Award by the Metropolitan Black Bar Association at their 41st Anniversary Awards Gala on May 16, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas**, Administrative Judge, Fifth Judicial District, who will be presented with the Doris S. Hoffman Medal at the annual convention of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) on May 16, 2025. The Doris S. Hoffman Medal is "given to a WBASNY member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and service to women lawyers in New York State."

Congratulations to **Hon. Brenda Freedman**, Family Court, Erie County, who will be presented with the Stephanie E. Kupferman Juvenile Justice Award at the WBASNY Convention on May 16, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff**, Supreme Court, New York County, who will be presented with the Judith S. Kaye Access to Justice Award at the WBASNY Convention on May 16, 2025.

Congratulations to **Hon. Adam Silvera**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts, who will be recognized as a "Community Vision Awardee" at the LGBT BAR NY Annual Gala on May 20, 2025.

Congratulations to Kings County Supreme Court Justices **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones** and **Hon. Francois A. Rivera**, who will be honored by the Latino Judges Association Foundation at their annual reception on June 5, 2025.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Hon. Alvin Yearwood



(l-r): **Hon. Kenneth Holder** (Supreme Court, Queens County); **Hon. Michelle A. Johnson** (Administrative Judge, Supreme Court – Criminal Term, Queens County); **Hon. Alvin Yearwood** (Administrative Judge, Supreme Court – Criminal Term, Bronx County); **Hon. Claudia Daniels-Depeyster** (Supreme Court, Kings County); **Hon. Guy Mitchell** (Supreme Court, Bronx County) at the Tribune Society Dinner on November 6, 2024



Hon. Shirley Troutman, Co-Chair of the FHW Commission, presents the Shattering Racial Ceilings and Barriers Award to **Chief Judge Hon. Rowan D. Wilson**

Congratulations to **Hon. Carolyn Walker-Diallo**, former Administrative Judge, the New York City Civil Court, who was presented with the Distinguished Service Award at the 56th Annual Awards Dinner Dance of The Tribune Society on November 6, 2024.

Congratulations to **Hon. Rowan D. Wilson**, Chief Judge of the State of New York and the New York Court of Appeals, who was presented with the Shattering Racial Ceilings and Barriers Award at the Diversity Awards Gala of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on November 12, 2024.

Congratulations to **Hon. E. Jeanette Ogden**, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, who was presented with the Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam Outstanding Jurist Award by the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on November 12, 2024.



Hon. Llinét M. Rosado presents the Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam Outstanding Jurist Award to **Hon. E. Jeanette Ogden**



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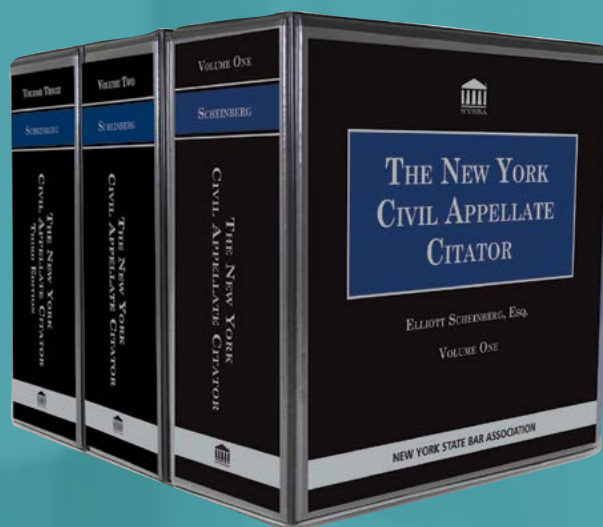
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The New York Civil Appellate Citator

By Elliott Scheinberg, Esq.

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- The treatment of standing and subject matter jurisdiction



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