



FRANCES E. CAFARELL
CLERK OF THE COURT

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APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT
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ALAN L. ROSS
DEPUTY CLERK OF THE COURT

PRESS RELEASE

APPOINTMENT OF FRANCES E. CAFARELL AS CLERK OF THE COURT

The Hon. Henry J. Scudder, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, has announced the appointment of Frances E. Cafarell as Clerk of the Court, effective December 22, 2011.

Ms. Cafarell has served as the Deputy Clerk of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department since 2009. Prior to her appointment as Deputy Clerk, she served as Administrator of the Court's Assigned Counsel Program for 16 years. She also served for ten years as the Court's Family Court motions attorney. Ms. Cafarell is a member of the American Bar Association, New York State Bar Association and Monroe County Bar Association. In 2011, she received the Monroe County Bar Association's William E. McKnight Award in recognition of her commitment to Pro Bono Service.

Ms. Cafarell earned a Bachelor's Degree in Broadcast Journalism from Syracuse University and a Master's Degree in Administration of Justice from American University. She worked as a news anchor and legal reporter before attending Albany Law School, where she was a member of the Albany Law Review and the National Moot Court Competition team. After graduating with honors from law school, she served as a Confidential Law Assistant for the Fourth Department, before joining the litigation department of Harris Beach & Wilcox, where her practice was concentrated in commercial and environmental litigation and appellate practice.

Presiding Justice Scudder said “The Court is pleased to appoint Frances Cafarell as Clerk of the Court. Fran has demonstrated great leadership and management skills as Deputy Clerk and as Administrator of the Assigned Counsel Program. She has earned a reputation with colleagues, members of the bar and the public for her professionalism and accessibility. Her exceptional work ethic is an excellent example for us all. I have every confidence that she will serve this Court well.”

The Clerk of the Court is the highest ranking non-judicial employee in the Appellate Division. The Clerk is responsible for assisting the Court in managing the day to day, non-judicial operations of the Court. The Clerk is also responsible for supervising non-judicial personnel, developing recommendations concerning policy, programs and procedures, and representing the Appellate Division before legislative committees, bar associations and other agencies.

Ms. Cafarell succeeds Patricia L. Morgan, who was appointed Clerk of the Court in April 2009. Ms. Morgan had served the Court for 30 years and recently announced her retirement, effective December 21, 2011.