

Court of Appeals

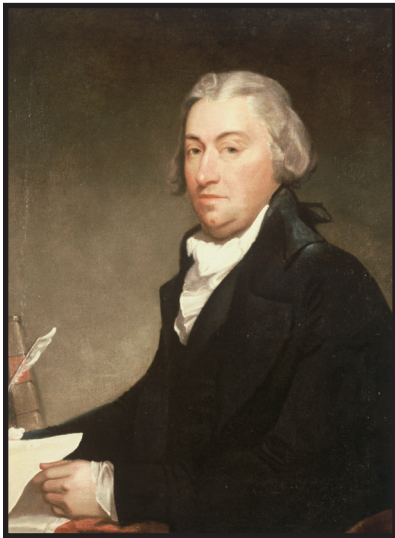


State of New York

THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK



John Jay



Robert Livingston

The Court of Appeals, New York State's highest court, is composed of a Chief Judge and six Associate Judges, each appointed to a 14-year term. When a vacancy occurs, the Governor makes an appointment from among names submitted by the Commission on Judicial Nomination. Each appointment is subject to confirmation by the State Senate.

HISTORY

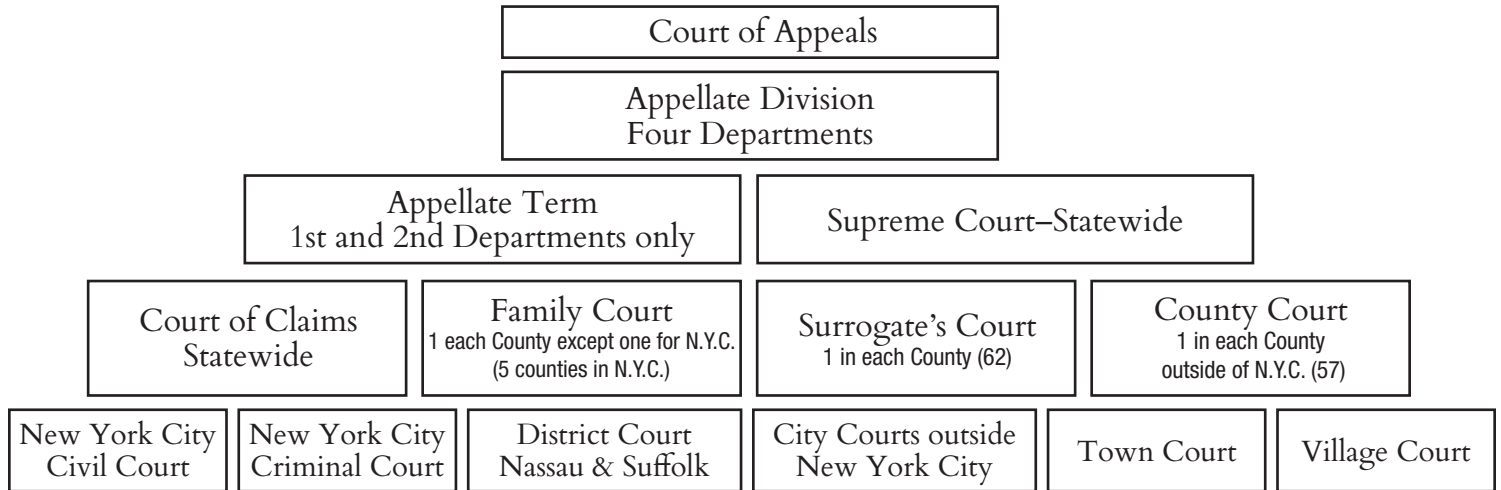
For the first several decades of New York's history as a state, the highest court was composed of the Justices of the Supreme Court (a trial court), the Chancellor (a judicial officer) and members of the State Senate. It was known as the Court for the Trial of Impeachments and the Correction of Errors. It was modeled after the appellate system in England's House of Lords. Perhaps because of its size and unwieldiness, it never achieved renown. However, New York's first Chief Justice did: John Jay, one of the founders of our democracy, later became the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States in 1789. Another key figure in the earliest days of the State's legal system was Jay's friend and colleague, Robert Livingston, the first Chancellor. Together with Gouverneur Morris, Jay and Livingston are credited with drafting New York State's first Constitution.

New York's highest appellate court was established to articulate statewide principles of law in the context of deciding particular lawsuits. The Court thus generally focuses on broad issues of law as distinguished from individual factual disputes. There is no jurisdictional limitation based upon the amount of money at stake in a case or the status or rank of the parties.

The Court of Appeals was established by the Constitutional Convention of 1846 with eight members, four to be elected for eight-year terms by voters statewide and the other four Supreme Court Justices having the shortest remaining terms to serve as acting Court of Appeals Judges for one year.

The Constitutional Convention of 1869 created the Court of Appeals as we know it today. That Court sat to hear appeals for the first time in July 1870. By that year the State had become a bustling center of commerce and industry. Litigation increased to such a degree that New York State's court of last resort became backlogged with cases, a situation that persisted for decades. While the entire nation's judicial system continues to contend with increasing case volumes, New York State's highest court has achieved currency in handling its docket. The Court today typically hands down its decisions within six weeks after oral argument of a case.

OUTLINE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COURT SYSTEM



The Court of Appeals sits atop the State judicial system. Matters argued before the Court often have been heard by two lower courts (typically a trial court and the Appellate Division). Except in cases involving a federal question, where the Supreme Court of the United States has the last word, the Court of Appeals has the final statement on decisional law in New York State. In the last decade, the Court has decided an average of 130 appeals annually, in addition to deciding over 800 motions for leave to appeal in civil cases and nearly 2,000 applications for leave to appeal in criminal cases.

The graceful Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns of the central lobby of the rotunda carry the visitor's eye upward to the State Seal on the interior of the building's dome.



EARLY DAYS

EARLY SESSIONS

Prior to the Constitutional Convention of 1846, sessions of the Court for the Trial of Impeachments and the Correction of Errors were held, at least a portion of the time, on the second floor of the old Capitol located on the north side of State Street in Capitol Park, east of the present Capitol.

When the Court of Appeals was organized in July 1847, it met in the old Capitol and continued there until May 11, 1883. It moved to the present Capitol in October of that year, meeting in temporary quarters until the new courtroom was completed on January 14, 1884.

After 30 years there, the Court outgrew the rooms it had been assigned, and space was needed by the Executive and Legislative branches. It became apparent that other accommodations would be required. Plans were made to relocate the Court to State Hall, down the street from the Capitol. The Court meets there to this day.

COURT OF APPEALS HALL

Court of Appeals Hall, originally known as State Hall, was designed by architect Henry Rector to house state offices. The Greek Revival structure was completed in 1842. The capitals and bases of the five columns supporting the portico were copies of those of the ancient Greek Temple of Nike Apteros on the Acropolis. Architectural historian Talbot Hamlin opined in 1944 that the building “proclaimed the complete victory of the Greek Revival in the Albany region.”

In 1916, the state offices were removed to other quarters and the building was remodeled to house the Court of Appeals. State Architect Lewis F. Pilcher designed a rear addition into which was moved the beautiful courtroom, until then located on the third floor of the Capitol. Designed by Henry Hobson Richardson in 1881, the courtroom, with its elaborate hand-carved oak paneling, furniture, and marble and Mexican onyx fireplace, is one of the finest nineteenth century governmental chambers. According to the Preservation League of New York State, “the dual preservation of a noble Greek Revival building and Richardson’s sumptuous courtroom was an early triumph of historic preservation.”

Moving from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to the twenty-first, in 2004 Court of Appeals Hall underwent a substantial renovation and expansion, though the courtroom itself was little changed from the magnificent original design of Henry Hobson Richardson. In 2006, the Court of Appeals inaugurated a lecture series intended to bring the public into its home. At a lecture devoted to the subject of courthouse architecture, noted architect Henry N. Cobb waxed poetic about the distinctive beauty of the Richardson courtroom:

“Look around you now and notice how eloquently this room gives voice to values that underlie the administration of justice in our democratic society. Notice that the room is stately yet unpretentious, highly ordered yet refreshingly nonhierarchical, beautifully crafted yet materially modest, appropriately ceremonial yet warmly human. If I were speaking to you in a lecture hall, I would be obligated to illustrate these points with projected images, but here I need only to invite you to enjoy discovering for yourself the myriad details that together constitute the eloquent voice of this room. Wherever you are seated — whether near the Bench or fireplace, or in one of the ram’s-head armchairs, or toward the rear with a sweeping view of the many portraits arrayed around its paneled walls, you are palpably enveloped here in the voice of architecture as spoken by a master of our art.”

“Here, more effectively than in any other courtroom I know, the collegial character of an appeals court and the collective nature of its judgments is eloquently affirmed. When we consider the coherence and splendor of this chamber, with its magnificent fireplace and wonderful carved ornament — on its walls, on its Bench, on its tables and chairs, all of which were custom-made at this site — it is easy to understand why, when the Court later outgrew its quarters in the Capitol, it took the unprecedented step of dismantling the courtroom and reconstructing it virtually intact in its new quarters in the old State Hall, now appropriately renamed, of course, Court of Appeals Hall.”

THE COURTROOM



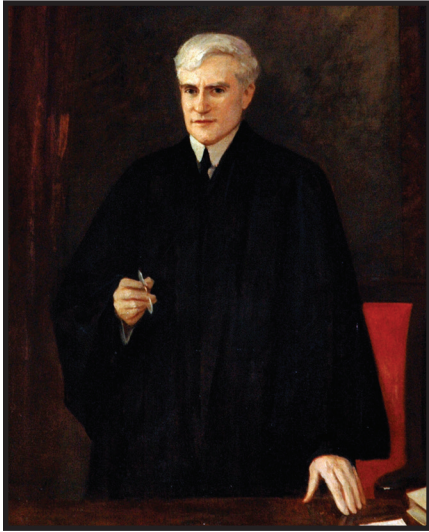
RENOVATIONS

The Court completed a thorough renovation and expansion of Court of Appeals Hall in 2004, modernizing utilities, communications, and fire safety systems that had become badly outdated since the last major renovation was undertaken in 1958.

Two additions at the back corners of the building increased floor space by a third, allowing all seven Judges to be housed on the same floor for the first time. The additions to the building are faced with marble from the same Danby, Vermont quarry that supplied the 1958 project. Some exterior marble walls of the original building were enclosed by the additions and became interior walls of the renovated courthouse (as shown in the photo at right). Brass chandeliers based on 1883 designs by H.H. Richardson were reproduced for the courtroom, the high groin-vaulted ceilings of the 1842 structure were reopened to view in key public areas of the first floor, and the oculus at the top of the dome was restored in a manner consistent with the original building design. A favorite feature from the prior renovation, the 1000-square-foot “Romance of the Skies” mural inside the dome, was painted by Eugene F. Savage in 1959.



THE PORTRAITS



Benjamin N. Cardozo

The remarkable assemblage of 129 paintings, including a number by well known national and regional artists, is displayed in several areas of Court of Appeals Hall. Most of the portraits line the walls of the courtroom itself. The portraits depict former Chief Judges, Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals, Chancellors and others associated with the law and the work of the Court. In a sense, the collection represents a comprehensive history of the jurisprudence of New York State.

The large portraits in the courtroom are of Chief Judges and the small generally of Associate Judges. Not all who have served on the highest tribunal are pictured. Tradition has it that no current member is portrayed. Judges may accept the honor only once they have left the bench.



Judith S. Kaye

The first and only Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals to be named to the Supreme Court of the United States was Benjamin N. Cardozo, a renowned scholar whose writings are studied to this day throughout the world. Cardozo served on the Court of Appeals as Associate Judge from 1914 and later as Chief Judge until he became a Justice of the nation's highest court in 1932.

Judith S. Kaye was the first woman to be appointed to the Court of Appeals and the first woman to be appointed Chief Judge. She served as Associate Judge from 1983 until her appointment to Chief Judge in 1993. She served as Chief Judge from 1993 until 2008, the longest-serving Chief Judge in Court of Appeals history.

George Bundy Smith served as Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals from 1992 until 2006. In 1961, when Judge Smith was at Yale Law School, he joined the Freedom Riders and, along with others on the historic mission, was arrested and convicted for sitting down and ordering coffee at a bus terminal lunch counter in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1965, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned his conviction.

During a 2004 renovation, the Court completed a portrait conservation and restoration project. The work, including restoration of the frames, was performed by the Bureau of Historic Sites of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.



George Bundy Smith

THE COURT AND ITS WORK

In most general terms, the Court's work divides into civil and criminal appeals. The cases originate in trial courts or administrative tribunals, then may be appealed to intermediate appellate courts, and finally to the Court of Appeals (see chart page 3).

Because appeals to the Court of Appeals usually represent a second layer of appellate review, cases that reach the Court are carefully selected. By and large, the Court seeks cases raising novel legal issues of statewide significance, or presenting issues that have engendered conflict in the intermediate appellate courts.

Civil and criminal cases reach the Court of Appeals by different routes. In most civil cases, the full Court determines whether to grant permission to appeal. In criminal cases, except those involving capital sentences, which come to the Court as a matter of right, the determination to grant leave is made by a single Judge. In both types of cases, the criteria for selection are similar.

The Court of Appeals is the last word on matters turning on the application of state law. Cases decided by the Court of Appeals involving questions under the United States Constitution or federal law may be reviewed by the Supreme Court of the United States. In practice, very few litigants take further appeals after the Court of Appeals has spoken.

As the highest court in the state, the Court of Appeals also has a major role in the administration of New York's Unified Court System. Under the State Constitution, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is also Chief Judge of the State of New York. Certain administrative policies recommended by the Chief Judge, after consultation with the Administrative Board of the Unified Court

System, may be promulgated only after approval by the full Court of Appeals.

The Court also has the authority to review determinations of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, and annually certifies the State Judicial branch budget to the Governor and Legislature.



The hand-carved design above is an outstanding example of the highly detailed carvings in the courtroom.

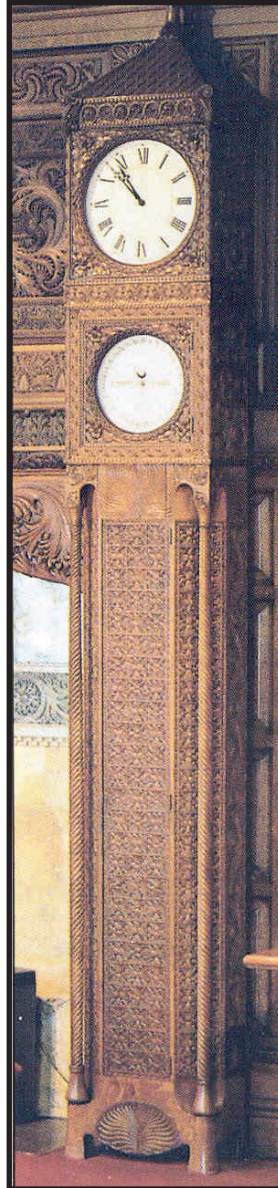
Pictured on the right is the Richardson clock.

SESSIONS OF THE COURT

There is one term of the Court of Appeals each year, commencing in January and continuing throughout the year in monthly sessions, usually excluding July and August.

The flow of business to and through the Court continues on a full-time basis year-round. Generally, the Court convenes in Albany for oral argument of pending appeals. In periods between the sittings or in-Court sessions, the Judges, who reside in various parts of the State, return to their Home Chambers and continue their work of writing opinions and preparing cases for the next session of the Court.

The time during the in-Chambers sessions also is devoted to the thousands of requests for permission to appeal in criminal cases and preparation of recommendations on motions for leave to appeal in civil cases, which are decided by the full Court.



Judges have many other judicial and professional responsibilities to fulfill during these periods as well. The Clerk's Office at Court of Appeals Hall remains open throughout the year.

When in Albany, the Court meets at least once each day in conference. At these confidential sessions, the Judges deliberate and reach decisions that become the law of the State.

Oral arguments normally are heard Tuesday through Thursday when the Court is in Albany. All sessions are open to the public. The Court is "a hot bench," meaning that each of the Judges has read and studied all the legal papers involved in a case prior to the appearance of attorneys arguing before them in the Courtroom. As a result, the arguments often become question-and-answer exchanges with the Judges asking the lawyers about specific legal points that relate to the case. The exchanges are often quite lively.

THE COURT IN CONFERENCE



Seated in order of seniority at the Conference Room table from Chief Judge Wilson's left are Senior Associate Judge Jenny Rivera and Associate Judges Michael J. Garcia, Madeline Singas, Anthony Cannataro, Shirley Troutman and Caitlin J. Halligan. Clerk of the Court Heather Davis, Consultation Clerk Hope B. Engel, and Assistant Consultation Clerk Julia Smead Bielawski also attend Conference.

THE COURT ON THE BENCH



Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson

Shirley Troutman

Madeline Singas

Jenny Rivera

Michael J. Garcia

Anthony Cannataro

Caitlin J. Halligan

THE JUDGES OF THE COURT



*Chief Judge Wilson, Senior Associate Judge Rivera and Associate Judge Garcia are seated in front.
Standing left to right are Associate Judges Troutman, Singas, Cannataro and Halligan.*

CHIEF JUDGE ROWAN D. WILSON



Rowan D. Wilson, *Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals*, was born in Pomona, California in 1960, and grew up in Berkeley, California. He received his A.B. degree from Harvard College in 1981, and his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1984. He was admitted to the bar of the State of California in 1985, and the bar of the State of New York in 1987. From 1984 to 1986, he served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable James R. Browning, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, based in San Francisco, California.

In 1986, he joined the firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York City as an associate, and was elected to partnership there in 1991, in which position he continued until February 2017. On January 15, 2017, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo nominated Judge Wilson to serve as an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, and the New York State Senate confirmed his nomination on February 6, 2017. On April 10, 2023, Governor Kathy Hochul nominated Judge Wilson to serve as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York. The New York Senate confirmed his nomination on April 18, 2023. While in private practice, Judge Wilson served on the boards of several charitable and not-for-profit organizations and handled numerous pro bono matters.

JENNY RIVERA | MICHAEL J. GARCIA



Jenny Rivera, *Senior Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals*, has spent her entire professional career in public service. She clerked for the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor, on the Southern District of New York, and also clerked in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals Pro Se Law Clerk's Office. She worked for the Legal Aid Society's Homeless Family Rights Project, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (renamed Latino Justice PRLDEF), and was appointed by the New York State Attorney General as Special Deputy Attorney General for Civil Rights. Judge Rivera has been an Administrative Law Judge for the New York State Division for Human Rights, and served on the New York City Commission on Human Rights. Prior to her appointment, she was a tenured faculty member of the City University of New York School of Law, where she founded and served as Director of the Law School's Center on Latino and Latina Rights and Equality. Judge Rivera is an elected member of the American Law Institute. She has published extensively on interpersonal violence, women's rights, and issues that impact the Latino community. She served on the American Bar Association Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities from 2010 to 2012, and as the Reporter to the Commission authored the Commission's Report. Judge Rivera has received several awards, including the ABA Spirit of Excellence Award and the NYSBA Diversity Trailblazer Lifetime Achievement Award. She graduated from Princeton University, and received her J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden Scholar. She received her LL.M. from Columbia University School of Law.



Michael J. Garcia, *Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals*, was born in Brooklyn, in October 1961. On January 20, 2016, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo nominated him to the Court of Appeals, and the New York State Senate confirmed his appointment on February 8, 2016. Judge Garcia received his undergraduate degree with honors from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1983 and an M.A. degree from the College of William & Mary in 1984. In 1989, he received his law degree (*summa cum laude*) from Albany Law School, where he graduated as valedictorian. He began his legal career as an associate at Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP in 1989. From 1990 to 1992, he served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Judith S. Kaye, then Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals. From 1992 to 2001, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. In 2001, he became Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement in the Bureau of Industry and Security, and in December 2002 he became Acting Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at the United States Department of Justice. From March 2003 to August 2005, he served as Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the United States Department of Homeland Security. Judge Garcia was the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 2005 to 2008, when he joined Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Judge Garcia served as chair of the Board of Trustees of El Museo del Barrio. He previously was Vice President of the Americas for INTERPOL, the international police organization, from 2003 to 2006. From 2012 to 2014, he was Chair of the Investigatory Chamber of the Ethics Committee of the Federation Internationale de Football Association. Judge Garcia lives in Westchester with his wife and three children.

MADELINE SINGAS | ANTHONY CANNATARO



Madeline Singas, *Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals*, is the 9th woman appointed to the Court. The daughter of Greek immigrants, Judge Singas grew up in Astoria. She is a graduate of the Bronx High School of Science, Barnard College, Columbia University, and Fordham University Law School. Judge Singas began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Queens County. In 2006, she joined the Nassau County District Attorney's Office and served the most vulnerable victims—children, the elderly, and victims of domestic and sexual abuse. In 2015, and again in 2019, she was elected Nassau County District Attorney, a county of nearly 1.4 million residents. In June 2021, Judge Singas's appointment to the New York Court of Appeals was confirmed. During her tenure on the Court, Judge Singas developed the Judges for Career Opportunities for Refugees (J-COR) program to assist Afghan refugees. The proud mother of college aged twins, Judge Singas lives on Long Island with her husband.



Anthony Cannataro, *Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals*, was born in New Jersey in July 1965. On May 25, 2021, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo nominated him to the Court of Appeals, and the New York State Senate confirmed his appointment on June 8, 2021. A career public servant, Judge Cannataro began his legal career in 1996 as an Assistant Corporation Counsel with the New York City Law Department. From 2000–2003, he served as Law Clerk to Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals. He then served as Law Clerk to Hon. Lottie E. Wilkins in Supreme Court, New York County from 2003–2011. In 2011, he was elected Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York, receiving assignments to the Kings County Family Court and the Bronx County Civil Court, until his appointment in 2016 as Supervising Judge of the New York County Civil Court. In 2017, he was elected Justice of the Supreme Court for the First Judicial District. Upon taking office as a Supreme Court Justice in January 2018, he was concurrently appointed Citywide Administrative Judge for the New York City Civil Court. Judge Cannataro received his B.A. (cum laude) from Columbia University in 1993 and his J.D. (cum laude) from New York Law School in 1996. He was admitted to practice law in April 1997. He currently resides with his husband in Westchester County.

SHIRLEY TROUTMAN | CAITLIN J. HALLIGAN



Shirley Troutman, *Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals*, was born in Fort Valley, Georgia. She was raised in Buffalo, New York, where she attended public schools. In 1982, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She received her law degree from Albany Law School in 1985 and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1986. She began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Erie County, then served as an Assistant Attorney General and as an Assistant United States Attorney representing the State of New York and the United States in civil litigation. She has also served as an adjunct professor at the University at Buffalo School of Law. In 1994, Judge Troutman was appointed by Mayor Anthony Masiello to serve as a judge for the Buffalo City Court, and she was elected to a full ten-year term the same year. In 2002, she was elected to the Erie County Court, where she served until her election to New York State Supreme Court in 2009. In 2016, she was designated by Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve on the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. In November of 2021, Judge Troutman was nominated by Governor Kathy Hochul to serve on the New York State Court of Appeals. She has served as co-chair of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, National Association of Women Judges New York Chapter President, a member of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics, and member of the Ethics Commission of New York State Unified Court System. She has also been an active member of many bar associations.



Caitlin J. Halligan, *Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals*, was born in Xenia, Ohio in December 1966. In April 2023, Governor Kathy Hochul nominated Judge Halligan to the Court of Appeals, and the New York Senate confirmed her nomination on April 19, 2023. Judge Halligan received her A.B. degree from Princeton University in 1988 and her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1995. From 1995 to 1996, she clerked for Judge Patricia Wald of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and from 1997 to 1998, for United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Before attending law school, Judge Halligan served as a Princeton-In-Asia Teaching Fellow in central China and as a legislative aide on Capitol Hill. From 1999 through 2006, she served in the New York Attorney General's Office, including more than five years as Solicitor General of New York. She also served as General Counsel to the Manhattan District Attorney from 2010 through 2013, and in private practice at several law firms in New York City. Most recently, she was a partner at Selendy Gay Elsberg, where she headed the firm's appellate and pro bono practices. Judge Halligan has taught various courses on public law issues at Harvard and Columbia law schools.

JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

under Constitution of 1846

Freeborn G. Jewett, Skaneateles
Greene C. Bronson, New York City
Charles H. Ruggles, Poughkeepsie
Addison Gardiner, Rochester
Samuel A. Foote, Geneva
Alexander S. Johnson, Utica
Hiram Denio, Utica
George F. Comstock, Syracuse
Samuel L. Selden, Rochester
Henry E. Davies, New York City

William B. Wright, Monticello
Henry R. Selden, Rochester
John K. Porter, Albany
Ward Hunt, Utica
Martin Grover, Angelica
Lewis B. Woodruff, New York City
Charles Mason, Hamilton
Robert Earl, Herkimer
John A. Lott, Brooklyn



Carving of the State Seal in the Courtroom.

CHIEF JUDGES

OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

under constitutional amendment of 1869
and Constitution of 1894

Sanford E. Church, Albion
Charles J. Folger, Geneva
Charles Andrews, Syracuse
William C. Ruger, Syracuse
Robert Earl, Herkimer
Alton B. Parker, Kingston
Edgar M. Cullen, Brooklyn
Willard Bartlett, Brooklyn
Frank H. Hiscock, Syracuse
Benjamin N. Cardozo, New York City
Cuthbert W. Pound, Lockport
Frederick E. Crane, Brooklyn
Irving Lehman, New York City

John T. Loughran, Kingston
Edmund H. Lewis, Syracuse
Albert Conway, Brooklyn
Charles S. Desmond, Eden
Stanley H. Fuld, New York City
Charles D. Breitel, New York City
Lawrence H. Cooke, Monticello
Sol Wachtler, Manhasset
Judith S. Kaye, New York City
Jonathan Lippman, New York City
Janet DiFiore, Bronxville
Rowan D. Wilson, New York City

JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

under constitutional amendment of 1869 and Constitution of 1894

William F. Allen, Oswego
 Martin Grover, Angelica
 Rufus W. Peckham, Albany
 Charles J. Folger, Geneva
 Charles A. Rapallo, New York City
 Charles Andrews, Syracuse
 Alexander S. Johnson, Utica
 Theodore Miller, Hudson
 Robert Earl, Herkimer
 Samuel Hand, Albany
 George F. Danforth, Rochester
 Francis M. Finch, Ithaca
 Benjamin F. Tracey, Brooklyn
 Rufus W. Peckham, Jr., Albany
 John Clinton Gray, New York City
 Denis O'Brien, Watertown
 Isaac H. Maynard, Stamford
 Edward T. Bartlett, New York City
 Albert Haight, Buffalo
 Celora E. Martin, Binghamton
 Irving G. Vann, Syracuse
 Edgar M. Cullen, Brooklyn
 Judson S. Landon, Schenectady
 William E. Werner, Rochester
 Willard Bartlett, Brooklyn
 Frank H. Hiscock, Syracuse
 Emory A. Chase, Catskill
 Frederick Collin, Elmira
 William H. Cuddeback, Buffalo
 John W. Hogan, Syracuse
 Nathan L. Miller, Cortland
 William B. Hornblower, New York City
 Benjamin N. Cardozo, New York City
 Samuel Seabury, New York City
 Cuthbert W. Pound, Lockport
 Chester B. McLaughlin, Port Henry
 Frederick E. Crane, Brooklyn
 William S. Andrews, Syracuse
 Abram I. Elkus, New York City
 Irving Lehman, New York City
 Henry T. Kellogg, Valcour
 John F. O'Brien, New York City
 Irving G. Hubbs, Pulaski
 Leonard C. Crouch, Syracuse



John T. Loughran, Kingston
 Edward R. Finch, New York City
 Harlan W. Rippey, Rochester
 Charles B. Sears, Buffalo
 Edmund H. Lewis, Syracuse
 Albert Conway, Brooklyn
 Charles S. Desmond, Buffalo
 Thomas D. Thacher, New York City
 Marvin R. Dye, New York City
 George Z. Medalie, New York City
 Stanley H. Fuld, New York City
 Bruce Bromley, Brooklyn
 Charles W. Froessel, Jamaica
 John Van Voorhis, Rochester
 Adrian P. Burke, New York City
 Sydney F. Foster, Liberty

John F. Scileppi, Queens
 Francis Bergan, Albany
 Kenneth B. Keating, Rochester
 Charles D. Breitell, New York City
 Matthew J. Jasen, Buffalo
 James Gibson, Hudson Falls
 Domenick L. Gabrielli, Bath
 Hugh R. Jones, New Hartford
 Sol Wachtler, Manhasset
 Samuel Rabin, Queens
 Harold A. Stevens, New York City
 Jacob D. Fuchsberg, Rye
 Lawrence H. Cooke, Monticello
 Bernard S. Meyer, Woodmere
 Richard D. Simons, Rome
 Judith S. Kaye, New York City
 Fritz W. Alexander, II, New York City
 Vito J. Titone, Staten Island
 Stewart F. Hancock, Jr., Cazenovia
 Joseph W. Bellacosa, Gunderland
 George Bundy Smith, New York City
 Howard A. Levine, Schenectady
 Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, New York City
 Richard C. Wesley, Livonia
 Albert M. Rosenblatt, LaGrange
 Victoria A. Graffeo, Gunderland
 Susan Phillips Read, West Sand Lake
 Robert S. Smith, New York City
 Eugene F. Pigott, Jr., Grand Island
 Theodore T. Jones, Jr., New York City
 Jonathan Lippman, New York City
 Jenny Rivera, New York City
 Sheila Abdus-Salaam, New York City
 Leslie E. Stein, Albany
 Eugene M. Fahey, Buffalo
 Janet DiFiore, Bronxville
 Michael J. Garcia, Westchester
 Rowan D. Wilson, New York City
 Paul G. Feinman, New York City
 Madeline Singas, Nassau County
 Anthony Cannataro, Westchester
 Shirley Troutman, Buffalo
 Caitlin J. Halligan, New York City

CLERK OF THE COURT & STAFF



On November 15, 2024, the New York State Court of Appeals appointed Heather Davis as its Clerk and Chief Legal Counsel. In that position, she oversees the daily operation of the Court and its staff. She previously served the Court in various positions, including Deputy Clerk, Chief Motion Clerk, and Principal Court Attorney. She is a graduate of Albany Law School, magna cum laude, and was admitted to practice law in New York in 2002.

This brochure would be incomplete without recognizing the hard work and professionalism of the Court's nonjudicial staff.

From the Judges' personal law clerks and secretaries, to the Clerk's office, Central Staff attorneys, security officers, and Court attendants, the Court's staff deserves enormous credit for the consistent high quality and timeliness of our work product.

Additional information, including court rules, decisions, summaries of pending cases and webcasts of oral arguments, is available on the Court's website at www.nycourts.gov/ctapps

To arrange a tour of Court of Appeals Hall, 20 Eagle Street, Albany, NY 12207-1095; please telephone (518) 455-7700.

