

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Revised: 9.1.2022

THE CHIEF JUDGE'S 2022 HEARING ON CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES IN NEW YORK



Monday, September 19, 2022
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Court of Appeals, 20 Eagle St., Albany, NY



Live Stream:
<http://nycourts.gov/ctapps/civil.html>

The Acting Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York, Hon. Anthony Cannataro, announces a statewide public hearing to evaluate the unmet civil legal needs of low-income New Yorkers. This year's hearing will focus on the significance of accessible, publicly funded civil legal services in confronting the continuing civil justice crisis that has been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. The Acting Chief Judge will report to the Legislature, as requested in its June 2010 Joint Resolution, on the information obtained at the hearing and on the ongoing work of the New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice. The Acting Chief Judge will be joined on the hearing panel by the four Presiding Justices, or their designees, of the Appellate Division: Hon. Dianne T. Renwick (First Department), Hon. Hector LaSalle (Second Department), Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry (Third Department), and Hon. Gerald J. Whalen (Fourth Department), as well as the Chief Administrative Judge, Hon. Lawrence K. Marks, and the President of the New York State Bar Association, Sherry Levin Wallach.

About this Hearing:

Low-income New Yorkers and vulnerable communities continue to face serious barriers accessing the civil justice system. This year's Public Hearing seeks information and data from interested individuals, organizations, and other entities about recent, present, and future responses to the ongoing civil justice crisis impacting essentials of life matters, such as housing, family stability and personal safety in domestic relations, healthcare, education, and/or subsistence income and public benefits.

Topics may include:

- The impact of Judiciary Civil Legal Services funding (JCLS) on the delivery of civil legal services and the fair and efficient administration of justice in the State courts.
- The current scope of the unmet need for civil legal services by low-income New Yorkers and the funding necessary to provide effective assistance to meet those needs, including costs related to pandemic-related modifications to legal services delivery.
- The impact of adequate civil legal services funding on economic, social, and public health outcomes for low-income and vulnerable communities and individuals, including persons with disabilities, the elderly, veterans, and children.
- The economic benefits to individuals, communities, the courts, and the State from the provision of civil legal services where essentials of life are at stake.
- The cost and impact of a funded statutory right to counsel in meeting the civil legal needs of low-income New Yorkers.
- The impact on the delivery of effective civil legal services due to attorney shortages throughout the State, particularly in rural areas.
- The importance of bridging the digital divide, particularly with regard to remote appearances, to ensure equal access to justice.
- The need for increased pro bono services, law school programs, and non-lawyer programs, including the Court Navigator Program and Legal Hand.
- New or expanded community collaborations among legal services providers, law schools, law and public libraries, health care providers, and clergy.

The Acting Chief Judge's Hearing Panel will consider both oral statements (by invitation only) and written submissions.

If you are interested in being invited to present, please send an email no later than September 2, 2022, (1) identifying the presenter and the presenter's affiliation; and (2) attaching a prepared statement or detailed outline of the proposed statement, specifying which of the topics described above will be addressed. Proposed statements should be no more than ten minutes in length. Those interested in providing only a written submission may email their remarks no later than September 9, 2022. For persons not invited to present oral remarks, your proposed statement will be deemed a written submission. The New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice is assisting the Acting Chief Judge in preparing for the hearing and by reporting on its results.

Please note that the Hearing Panel will not accept any comments, written or spoken, addressing details of individual litigation or comments about individual judges or attorneys.

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