



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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NY Courts' Office of Workforce Diversity Has New Name, Expanded Mission

NEW YORK—The New York State Office of Court Administration's Executive Director, John W. McConnell, today announced the court system's Office of Workforce Diversity has been renamed the Office of Diversity & Inclusion (ODI) to more accurately reflect its expanded mission and highlight today's management perspectives and best practices.

"Promoting diversity, equity and inclusion is essential to the Judiciary's mission as we continue to strive for excellence systemwide and seek to advance the quality of justice throughout New York State. The renaming of the ODI reaffirms the court system's dedication to these vital principles and goals," said Mr. McConnell.

The New York State court system has a longstanding commitment to developing and maintaining a workforce as diverse as the population it serves. With programs dating back to the 1980s, the court system has worked tirelessly to recruit employees from all backgrounds, provide a bias-free environment for professional growth and forge connections with underrepresented communities statewide.

The Office's early efforts were centered on the federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) laws and compliance, as part of the Division of Human Resources. In 2010, the Office of Workforce Diversity became a stand-alone unit at the Office of Court Administration. S. Anthony Walters, who has led the Office of Workforce Diversity since 2009, will continue to serve as the ODI's director.

The ODI's work focuses on the support and strategic development of structures, policies and practices that promote racial justice, gender equity, disability access and full participation among all members of the court system community.

ODI initiatives include collaborating with affinity groups, clergy and other stakeholders to provide professional development programs for court system employees; conducting recruitment training for hiring managers; presenting diversity and inclusion-related programs for Court Officer trainees on issues such as implicit bias; partnering with state and local agencies on diversity and inclusion-related outreach efforts; and developing and launching outreach and education tools—such as the “Diversity Dialogues” interview series (<http://ww2.nycourts.gov/diversity-dialogues-28056>)—to underscore the significance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and society.

In addition to the Office's new name, its website pages have been revamped to incorporate information related to its expanded mission. To learn more, please visit the ODI at <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/careers/diversity/index.shtml>.

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