



# PRESS RELEASE

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Lawrence K. Marks  
Chief Administrative Judge**

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## **Appointments Made to Appellate Term, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts**

**NEW YORK**—Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks today announced the appointments of Hon. Thomas P. Aliotta as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court, Second, Eleventh and Thirteenth Judicial Districts, and Hon. Wavny Toussaint, as an Associate Justice of the Court. The appointments, effective last month, were made with the approval of Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department.

Justice Aliotta replaces Hon. Michael L. Pesce, who has retired from the bench. Justice Toussaint is filling the vacancy left by Justice Aliotta's appointment as Presiding Justice of the Court.

In announcing the appointments, Judge Marks said, "I welcome these two fine judges to their respective new roles. Each brings to the Court a wealth of experience and knowledge, along with a reputation for excellence, integrity and collegiality."

Justice Aliotta began his judicial tenure in 1991 on the New York City Civil Court bench in Richmond County, where he served as Supervising Judge from 1997 to 2001. He was elected to State Supreme Court, Richmond County, in 2001 and re-elected to the Court in 2015. He was appointed to the Appellate Term in 2011. Prior to becoming a judge, he worked as a solo practitioner and before that served as an Assistant District Attorney in Richmond County.

He is a past president (2014-2015) of the Supreme Court Justices Association of the City of New York and since 2008 has chaired the Chief Administrative Judge's Guardianship Advisory Committee. Justice Aliotta is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School.

Justice Toussaint was first elected as a Judge to New York City Civil Court in 2002, making her the first Trinidadian-American elected to judicial office in New York State. She served as a New York City Criminal Court Judge from 2003 to 2005, and as a New York City Family Court Judge from 2005 to 2007 and 2010 to 2011. She was designated an acting Supreme Court Justice in 2010, re-elected to New York City Civil Court in 2012 and elected to the State Supreme Court, Kings County, in 2014.

She began her legal career as an assistant corporation counsel for the City of New York. She has also managed her own practice, worked as a court attorney in State Supreme Court in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and served as an associate for the law firm of Lester, Schwab, Katz and Dwyer. Justice Toussaint earned her J.D. from Howard University School of Law.

Judge Marks added, "We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Justice Pesce for his effective stewardship as Presiding Justice since 2002 and for his many contributions to the court system over the course of his distinguished judicial tenure."

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