



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

**Contact: Lucian Chalfen,
Public Information Director
Arlene Hackel, Deputy Director
(212) 428-2500**

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Administrative Judges Named in NYC's Queens County, Western NY's Seventh Judicial District

New York—Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks today designated Hon. George A. Grasso as Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters, Supreme Court, Queens County; and Hon. William K. Taylor as Administrative Judge for the Seventh Judicial District, which encompasses Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates counties. The appointments were made with the approval of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and in consultation with the Presiding Justices of the Appellate Division of the Second and Fourth Judicial Departments, respectively.

“We are fortunate to have two such outstanding candidates to fulfill the multiple demands of these critically important administrative assignments. Judges Grasso and Taylor are dynamic leaders, acknowledged for their judicial expertise, resourcefulness and hard work. They bring tremendous energy and vision to their respective new roles. I am eager to work with them as we continue to navigate the many challenges arising from the pandemic and advance our efforts to enhance the delivery and quality of justice in New York,” said Judge Marks in announcing the appointments.

Since 2016, Judge Grasso has been serving as Supervising Judge of New York City Criminal Court, Bronx County, where he spearheaded efforts resulting in dramatic reductions in case backlogs. He was first appointed to the New York City Criminal Court, Kings County, in 2010 and re-appointed in 2015. He was designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice in 2012 and named Supervising Judge for Citywide Arraignments in New York City Criminal Court. In that role, he implemented a multi-agency approach that led to significant decreases in arrest-to-arraignment times. More recently, Judge Grasso was named to oversee a new initiative to expedite the handling of felony gun possession cases in the criminal courts in New York City's five boroughs.

Before his ascension to the bench, Judge Grasso served the NYPD with distinction, rising through the ranks over the course of his 30-year tenure, most recently holding the position of First Deputy Police Commissioner. He is a graduate of St. John's School of Law.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Taylor was serving as the Seventh Judicial District's Acting Administrative Judge. He was elected to Supreme Court for the Seventh Judicial District in 2016, and before that served as an elected Justice of the Pittsford Town Court from 2013-2015, and an acting Rochester City Court judge presiding over criminal arraignments as needed.

Judge Taylor began his legal career as a law clerk to Hon. Richard C. Wesley of the New York State Court of Appeals, and later, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit. He subsequently worked as an Assistant District Attorney in Monroe County, later serving the County of Monroe in various capacities, including as County Attorney and Counsel to the County Executive.

Judge Taylor earned his law degree from the State University of New York-Buffalo School of Law. Among his extra-judicial activities, he is an adjunct professor at Roberts Wesleyan College, where he teaches courses in the college's Criminal Justice Program, and a board member of Pittsford Youth Services and Just Cause (formerly the Volunteer Legal Service Project).

The appointments are effective immediately.

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