



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

www.nycourts.gov/press

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Virtual Juror Orientation and Selection in Manhattan, A First in New York State

MANHATTAN—Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks and New York County Clerk and Commissioner of Jurors Milton A. Tingling today announced that a small group of randomly selected Manhattan residents who meet the State’s juror eligibility requirements will participate in a pilot program, appearing remotely for a Supreme Court-Civil Term jury orientation and selection—marking a first in New York. Summonses for the pilot program are being mailed this week, with online juror orientation and selection scheduled for July 6, 2022 on Microsoft Teams.

To ensure participation in the remote program, prospective jurors who lack an internet connection or a tablet, laptop or other internet-capable device will be provided the necessary equipment for use in advance and during their service. A help desk team will also be on hand to offer technical support to participants, including testing prospective jurors’ equipment prior to their service date. Additional instructions and guidelines will be available on the Court System’s juror website (www.nyjuror.gov) to help prepare participants for their virtual jury service date.

Program participants who are ultimately selected as jurors will be instructed to appear in person for a one-day summary jury trial, an alternative dispute resolution technique that works to foster settlement between the parties in civil cases and avert a full, lengthy trial.

The pilot program will then be carefully assessed, examining the equipment needs of prospective jurors, the resources required ahead of and on the jurors' service date, and the demographics of the program participants, among other factors, in planning its potential replication in other counties.

"With this exciting initiative, the Court System continues to explore and extend its use of technology, moving cases forward while allowing jurors to fulfill their civic duty with a minimum of inconvenience. We look forward to evaluating the expansion of this concept to other parts of the State, including our rural communities, in our ongoing efforts to increase juror response rates and ensure that our jury pools reflect New York's rich diversity," said Chief Administrative Judge Marks. "I am thankful to Commissioner Tingling and his office, to the Court System's statewide jury coordinator, Jessica Simard, and her staff, and to our Division of Technology and Court Research for their collective efforts on this innovative endeavor."

"New York County is honored to have been selected for the pilot program. We look forward to the evaluation and, hopefully, implementation of this new use of technology throughout the State. As is said, 'If you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere,'" said New York County Clerk Tingling.

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