



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Andrew A. Crecca
Administrative Judge
Suffolk County Courts**

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Suffolk County Launches Virtual Juror Selection Pilot Program

RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK—Suffolk County Administrative Judge Andrew A. Crecca and Suffolk County Commissioner of Jurors John Nunziata today announced that a small group of randomly selected Suffolk County 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. Summonses for the pilot program are being mailed this week, with online juror orientation and selection scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023 on Microsoft Teams. Suffolk County will be the second county in the State to conduct juror orientation and selection virtually, following New York County (Manhattan), which launched its pilot program this past July.

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/virtual) 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 continue to be 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 replication in other counties.

"I am excited for Suffolk County to serve as a second pilot location for virtual jury orientation and selection. This program offers the potential to bolster the juror participation rate, reduce travel expenses and increase the overall efficiency of the selection process. We look forward to monitoring the program's progress and results, and sharing our experience with other counties," said Judge Crecca.

"If the virtual program can be successfully implemented, it would give jurors greater ease and flexibility, allowing more prospective jurors the opportunity to participate in the process," said Commissioner Nunziata.

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