



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Tamiko Amaker
Acting Chief Administrative Judge**

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Blue-Ribbon Panel Named to Implement Pandemic-Related Innovations Aimed at Enhancing the Delivery of Justice

NEW YORK—Acting Chief Judge Anthony Cannataro and Acting Chief Administrative Judge Tamiko Amaker today announced the establishment of a blue-ribbon team of experts tasked with implementing recommendations that will build on pandemic-related innovations to improve the administration of justice. The Court Modernization Action Committee (CMAC) comprises leaders of the court system and the bar, members of the community, court users and justice partners. Supreme Court Justice Craig Doran of the Seventh Judicial District will chair the new committee.

CMAC stemmed from a report and recommendations issued last month by the Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York's Courts' Pandemic Practices Working Group, also led by Justice Doran. In addition to expanding and encouraging the use of virtual court proceedings, the recommendations include:

- Bringing greater transparency and consistency to the use of virtual proceedings
- Improving the functioning of remote proceedings
- Expanding alternatives for court users to access virtual proceedings and other court resources
- Improving accessibility for people who require special accommodations

- Enhancing systems for communicating with and supporting court users, including revamping the court system’s website
- Ensuring that there is appropriate public access to virtual proceedings
- Expanding the use of electronic filing of cases
- Investing in locally appropriate modernization projects that will permit courthouses to better support virtual, hybrid and in-person proceedings
- Improving training and technical support for judges, court staff and court users
- Developing a detailed plan for responding to a future pandemic or other court disruption, and a system for testing, refining and deploying that plan
- Appropriating and earmarking supplemental funds for court modernization and emergency preparedness.

(The full report is available at https://www.nycourts.gov/LegacyPDFS/press/pdfs/PR23_03.pdf.)

“Last month, the Pandemic Practices Working Group provided us with a solid plan to modernize practices and protocols to ensure the court system is positioned to deal with unforeseeable events in the future while improving access to justice right now,” Judge Cannataro said. “Now, the task is to follow that blueprint and implement reforms and enhancements, and I have every confidence that the CMAC will help lead us to the future. I am very grateful Judge Doran and the members of the committee for so generously donating their time and expertise to what they and I believe is a vital cause: the modernization of our court system.”

Judge Amaker, who served on the Working Group in her capacity as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support and will also serve on CMAC, said, “It is a privilege to collaborate with such a committed and dedicated group. I know we are all ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work on refining our court system. We all appreciate that reimagining our courts is not a one-and-done proposition. Rather, it is a continuing commitment.”

“We all want to get the same place—an efficient, effective, user-friendly court system that embraces change and is prepared for future contingencies—so it made sense to combine our expertise and efforts,” said Justice Doran. “It was no accident that the Working Group had “working” as part of its title, and it is no accident that the CMAC has the word “action” in its name. We’re here to get things done.”

Hank Greenberg, who chairs the Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York’s Courts and served on the Working Group, said, “Since the Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York’s Courts was established in 2020, its working groups have produced 15 reports that have resulted in significant and beneficial changes in court operations. But none holds greater potential to enhance access to justice, improve the

experience of litigants, and save time and money, than the report and recommendations produced by the Pandemic Practices Working Group. It is a blueprint for action, which CMAC will take to enhance the delivery and quality of justice for all New Yorkers.”

Serving on the CMAC are:

Chair:

Hon. Craig Doran, Supreme Court Justice, 7th Judicial District

Co-Chairs:

Scott B. Reents, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

William Silverman, Proskauer Rose LLP

Project Manager:

Christine Sisario, Director of Technology, Office of Court Administration

Members:

Hon. Tamiko Amaker, Acting Chief Administrative Judge and Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support, Office of Court Administration

Nancy J. Barry, Chief of Operations, Office of Court Administration

Mark A. Berman, Partner, Ganfer Shore Leeds & Zauderer LLP

Wilderness Castillo-Dobson, Associate, Proskauer Rose LLP

Jessica Cherry, Assistant Deputy Counsel, Office of Court Administration

Michael DeVito, Manager, Office of Record Production, Office of Court Administration

Stephen Fiala, Commissioner of Jurors and County Clerk, Richmond County

Hon. Patria Frias-Colón, Supreme Court Justice, Kings County

Hank Greenberg, Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig; Chair of the Commission to Re-Imagine the Future of NY’s Courts

Sheng Guo, Program Manager, Courtroom Modernization, Office of Court Administration

Hon. Craig Hannah, Supervising Judge, Buffalo City Court

Rezwanul Islam, Deputy Executive Director, Nassau Suffolk Legal Services

Leanne Lapp, Public Defender, Ontario County, Past President of the State Defender’s Association

Richard Lewis, President-Elect, New York State Bar Association,

Roger Juan Maldonado, Partner, Smith Gambrell & Russell, Past President of the New York City Bar Association

Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, Office of Court Administration

Kelsey Miller, Associate, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

Michael Miller, Past President, New York County Lawyers Association and New York State Bar Association

Lillian M. Moy, Executive Director (Retired), Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

Barbara Mule, Staff Counsel, Permanent Commission on Access to Justice

Hon. James P. Murphy, Administrative Judge, Fifth Judicial District

Hon. Shannon Pero, Justice, Town of Greece

Anthony R. Perri, Deputy Counsel, Office of Court Administration

Portia Proctor, Associate, Proskauer Rose LLP

Hon. Raymond L. Rodriguez, Acting Justice of the Supreme Court, Kings County

Nicole Swanson, Associate, Proskauer Rose LLP

Raymond A. Tierney, District Attorney, Suffolk County

Kyle Van Zutphen, Senior Budget Analyst, OCA Division of Financial Management

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