



## PRESS RELEASE

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas  
Chief Administrative Judge**

**Hon. Donna-Marie E. Golia  
Administrative Judge  
Queens County Supreme Court,  
Criminal Term**

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# **Latest Courtroom Technology Now Available Throughout Queens County Supreme Court's Criminal Term**

**KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK**—Administrative Judge Golia today joined Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas, Queens County District Attorney Melinda Katz, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Edwina Richardson-Mendelson and Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for NYC Courts Deborah Kaplan to publicly unveil the Queens County Supreme Court–Criminal Term's new, integrative courtroom technology—now available in each of the facility's 24 courtrooms—making the Queens courthouse the largest statewide to equip every courtroom with this advanced, user-centered technology. The courthouse, located at 125-01 Queens Boulevard, is also home to the County's criminal court.

The design and installation of this innovative courtroom technology is a collaborative effort of the court system's Court Modernization Initiative (CMI) and the Office of the Queens County District Attorney, with the latter contributing \$1.675 million of its federal forfeiture funds to the purchase of evidence presentation equipment and other upgrades to 19 courtrooms. The Office of Court Administration provided funding for the upgrades to the remaining five courtrooms. The project, first envisioned by Chief Administrative Judge Zayas during his tenure as the Queens County Supreme Court–Criminal Term's Administrative Judge, and by the former Queens County District Attorney, the late Richard Brown, was shepherded to completion by Judge Golia and District Attorney Katz.

Among the CMI's features are:

- A "Bring Your Own Device" evidence presentation system, enabling the prosecution and defense to present digital evidence from a laptop, tablet or smartphone.
- Individualized monitors to provide a better viewing experience for courtroom participants and spectators alike.
- A high-fidelity video distribution system to support both in-person and hybrid court proceedings. This technology has enabled the placement of monitors in smaller courtrooms or areas without electrical outlets, reducing installation costs.
- Cameras installed in various parts of the courtroom, giving those who access court proceedings remotely a better view of courtroom.
- Audio systems with advanced echo cancellation technology.
- Wireless microphones.
- Infrared-based assistive listening systems.
- Updated network infrastructure, including installation of new network cables, additional electrical capacity, Ethernet switches and Wi-Fi access points.
- Multiple digital signs, located in the main lobby, displaying the courthouse directory and court calendars.

"The integrative technology comprising the CMI—from advanced audio and video systems to digital evidence-sharing to assistive listening devices—will, undoubtedly, provide an enhanced courtroom experience, working to eliminate physical, language and other barriers to justice and improving the efficiency and efficacy of court proceedings. I am proud of our invaluable CMI team, whose ingenuity and perseverance led us to this day, and whose management of the new technology continues. I want to thank Judge Zayas for getting this initiative off the ground, Judge Golia for picking up the baton and seeing the project through to fruition, and District Attorney Katz for her office's pivotal funding and support," said Chief Judge Wilson.

"It gives me great satisfaction and pride to be part of today's public reveal, as we celebrate the implementation—in all 24 courtrooms of this facility—of this new and innovative technology, which has been carefully tailored to enrich the courtroom experience for all who work in, do business in or appear before the Court, as well as for jurors and courtroom spectators. I commend the court system's outstanding CMI team for their stellar work and am grateful to Judge Golia and District Attorney Katz for their commitment in carrying out this vital project," said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.

“With the Court’s transition to remote and hybrid proceedings at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, the CMI team customized the technology both to meet the needs of all who use our courtrooms and provide the functionality and adaptability required in today’s rapidly evolving post-pandemic environment,” said Administrative Judge Golia. “I am thankful to Judge Zayas for his vision and leadership, to District Attorney Katz for her office’s joint vision, funding and ongoing support, to Chief Clerk William Reyes for his oversight of the initiative, and to the court system’s highly talented, dedicated CMI team, who, led by Sheng Guo, Chief Technology Officer and Program Manager for the Courtroom Modernization Initiative, and Michael Cheung, Technical Manager for Queens County, navigated numerous logistical, technical and other challenges, delivering innovative solutions that far exceeded our initial goals.”

“We must strive to maximize the ability of our court system to function fairly and efficiently, while eliminating obstacles to civic participation and engagement. To that end, we have taken an important step forward thanks to the Court Modernization Initiative. I want to thank the judiciary and Office of Court Administration for bringing CMI to fruition,” said District Attorney Katz.

“The user-focused technology we celebrate today exemplifies the commitment the New York State Unified Court System has made to modernize our courts, making them more user-friendly and ensuring they will best meet the needs of the people and communities they serve, said Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Mendelson. “It’s wonderful to be here today to see Chief Administrative Judge Zayas’ and former Queens County District Attorney the late Richard Brown’s vision come to life and to celebrate the work of everyone involved in this important initiative enhancing accessibility to the court, especially Judge Golia and District Attorney Katz.”

“It is not an overstatement to say that the new and groundbreaking courtroom technology in Queens County Supreme Court-Criminal Term will have a profound positive effect on litigants, witnesses, lawyers, spectators, judges and nonjudicial personnel, making our courtrooms ever more accessible and user-friendly for all,” said Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Kaplan.

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