



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

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Chief Administrative Judge Announces New Structure of Court System's Human Resources and Labor Relations Divisions, Appoints Key Positions to More Effectively Address NYS Courts' Personnel Needs

NEW YORK—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas today announced the appointment of Christy Bass as the court system's Director of Human Resources. As Director, she will be responsible for overseeing the provision of support services to the New York State courts in the critical areas of personnel administration, benefits administration, peace officer training, career services, professional development and equal employment opportunity best practices. Carolyn Grimaldi, who has held the dual roles of Director of Human Resources and Deputy Director of Labor Relations, will take on the leadership of the newly-created OCA Division of Labor Relations.

"Christy Bass is a seasoned human resources professional who, as the Third Judicial District's Deputy District Executive and later its District Executive, has earned a reputation within the District and throughout the court system for her outstanding leadership, team-building, organizational planning and financial management abilities and her deep commitment to diversity, inclusion and equal access to justice. Christy's expertise in all areas of personnel administration, coupled with her in-depth knowledge of court operations, make her an ideal fit for this demanding administrative position," said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. "I am eager to work with her in her new role as we strive to enhance our recruitment, hiring, training and career development strategies in meeting and anticipating the court system's operational needs and programmatic goals."

“I have had the privilege of working closely with Christy Bass in her capacity as District Executive and am delighted that she has agreed to take on the multiple demands of this key position. Christy is an innovative leader whose human resources management and public administration expertise will be assets to our Division of Human Resources and the court system as a whole,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George.

Christy Bass has been the District Executive in the Capital Region’s Third Judicial District since 2021, overseeing the human resources, security, technology, training and operational needs of the state-paid courts in seven counties, managing a diverse non-judicial workforce of some 500 employees and an annual budget of over \$60 million. Prior to becoming the Third Judicial Department’s District Executive, she served for six years as its Deputy District Executive. She began her court career in 1997 in the Cayuga County Commissioner of Jurors Office as a principal office typist and later a senior court office assistant, then was hired as a court assistant in Cayuga County’s Family Court, working her way up to the position of Chief Clerk in St. Lawrence County Family Court and later Chief Clerk and Commissioner of Jurors in Otsego Supreme and County Courts. She earned a Master’s in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University.

“We are immensely grateful to Carolyn Grimaldi for her service as Director of Human Resources over the past four years and for simultaneously taking on two very challenging roles, overseeing all aspects of personnel administration—from recruitment to benefits administration to professional development—in addition to her many responsibilities in leading the courts’ labor relations efforts. We are fortunate to have someone with her extensive labor relations expertise and thorough knowledge of the court system as the court system’s Director of Labor Relations. I look forward to my continued collaboration with Carolyn in her new capacity,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.

“I want to thank Carolyn for her hard work and dedication as Director of OCA’s Division of Human Resources. I am very pleased that the court system will continue to benefit from her skills and leadership in her role as Director of our newly-formed Division of Labor Relations,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George.

The appointments will take effect September 14, 2023.

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