



# **PRESS RELEASE**

**New York State  
Unified Court System**

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

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**Date: September 25, 2023**

## **First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge's Chief of Staff Named**

**NEW YORK**—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George today announced the appointment of Diana Colón as Chief of Staff to the First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge. As Chief of Staff, she will assist Judge St. George in developing and monitoring policies and procedures impacting court operations, identifying management priorities, leading special projects, providing in-depth analysis on a range of court management-related policies, programs and issues, and managing staff and budget preparation, among other duties.

“Diana Colón brings an abundance of skills, knowledge, experience and energy to this important, highly demanding post. She is a skilled attorney and adept manager who has earned a reputation within the Office of Court Administration and beyond for her exceptional judgment, work ethic and collaborative approach. She has been a tremendous resource and support to OCA over the past two decades. I am delighted that the New York State Courts will continue to benefit from her hard work and expertise in her new capacity,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.

“I could not be more pleased to announce Diana Colón’s appointment as my new Chief of Staff. Diana is a proven leader as demonstrated by her long, impressive list of accomplishments in her previous roles within OCA’s Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, where she devised policies and spearheaded programs aimed at enhancing access to the courts and the quality of justice in New York,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St George. “She has a firm grasp of the myriad issues impacting court operations, is thoroughly dedicated to eliminating barriers to justice, and places a high value on collaboration and relationship-building. I am thrilled to have her on our team and look forward to working with her in this new capacity.”

“I am honored to have been selected to serve as Chief of Staff to First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George. I am very excited for the wonderful opportunity to provide operational and administrative support to the court system’s leadership in furtherance of the advancement of the court system’s essential mission to deliver equal justice under the law in a just, fair and timely manner,” said Diana Colón.

Prior to her appointment, Diana was simultaneously serving in two roles within OCA’s Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives: as Director of the Office’s Judiciary Legal Services Division, in which she has been providing programmatic oversight of the New York State Judiciary’s \$97.5 million grant program for civil legal services, comprising 81 civil legal services grantees; and as Assistant Deputy Counsel in the OCA’s Division of Professional and Court Services, where she most recently was tasked with overseeing the development and implementation of an Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) pilot project for small claims cases in New York City Civil Court. Previously, she worked in the Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives as counsel for statewide unrepresented litigant matters and rural initiatives, devising policies and strategies to provide meaningful access to the courts to unrepresented litigants and conducting community outreach to improve public understanding of the legal system.

“It has been a true privilege and pleasure to work closely with Diana Colón as the Director of the Judiciary Civil Legal Services Division in my office. I am deeply impressed with Diana’s wisdom, intellect, strength of character and passion for justice. I know that Diana will continue to excel in her new and critically important position,” said Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson.

Ms. Colón began her legal career as a Corporate Associate at the New York City law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, where she received the Pro Bono Service Award in 1999 and 2000, and later worked as a solo practitioner in New York City, representing clients in real estate, small business and other legal matters.

She is a graduate of Columbia College, Columbia University in the City of New York, and Harvard Law School.

Her appointment is effective September 28, 2023.

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