



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

**Contact:
Al Baker, Communications Director
Arlene Hackel
(212) 428-2505
www.nycourts.gov/press**

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New Administrative Judge Named in the Fourth Judicial District

NEW YORK—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George today announced the appointment of Hon. Kris Singh as Administrative Judge for New York’s Fourth Judicial District. The appointment was made with the approval of Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and after consultation with Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Third Department. He succeeds Hon. Felix Catena, who is retiring at the end of this year.

In his new capacity, Judge Singh will oversee the day-to-day management of the trial-level courts in the Unified Court System’s largest geographic district, spanning 11 counties in Northern New York and along the Canadian border, including Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Schenectady, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington counties.

“Judge Singh is an energetic leader with vast knowledge of the law and court operations. He brings extensive administrative experience, immense dedication, and outstanding partnership-building skills to his new role. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Singh held key positions in the Fourth Judicial District’s Administrative Office—where he addressed the full range of issues impacting court operations and policy—making him uniquely qualified to assume the many challenges of this critically important administrative post,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. “Judge Singh is recognized throughout the District and beyond for his intellect, high standards and integrity, and for his talent in fostering relationships between the District and the communities it serves. I am eager to work closely with him, building on the successes brought about by outgoing

Administrative Judge Catena, in advancing the delivery of justice throughout New York's Fourth Judicial District."

"I worked very closely with Judge Singh in my former role as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the Courts Outside New York City and know firsthand of his many fine attributes. He is a highly skilled administrator with extensive knowledge of the Fourth Judicial District's operations and programs. Judge Singh is also a natural, forward-thinking leader who places great emphasis on collaboration and communication in addressing, and getting to the root of, operational and other issues. In addition, he is a strong proponent of civic engagement, having initiated a student internship program in the Fourth Judicial District and volunteered as a judicial mentor, among his other efforts," said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George. "The court leadership team looks forward to working side-by-side with Judge Singh in his new capacity as Administrative Judge, as we strive to make the Fourth Judicial District and court system more efficient, more equitable, and better equipped to respond to the ever-evolving justice needs of New Yorkers."

"I am honored and humbled by this appointment. I am so very grateful to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside New York City, James P. Murphy, and the entire leadership team of the Unified Court System for their confidence in my abilities to lead the Fourth Judicial District. Having served the Unified Court System for over 20 years, I am heartened by the collaborative approach being taken by this new administration and look forward to working with the judges and nonjudicial personnel throughout the District's 11 counties to ensure that we stay connected to our mission of delivering equal justice under the law and to achieving the fair, timely resolution of all matters that come before our courts," said Judge Singh.

Judge Singh was elected to Montgomery County Surrogate's Court in 2022, the first person of South Asian descent both to be elected as a judge outside New York City and to serve as a Surrogate's Court judge in New York State. In addition to serving as a Montgomery County Surrogate, he is also an acting Family Court Judge and an acting County Court judge.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Singh served the Unified Court System in a variety of capacities, including as a principal court attorney to Administrative Judge Catena from 2021 to 2022; and, for more than a decade, as a principal court attorney to Hon. Vito C. Caruso, both during Justice Caruso's tenure as the Fourth Judicial District's Administrative Judge and as the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the Courts Outside New York City.

Over the course of a distinguished court career that spans two decades, Judge Singh has provided guidance and assistance to judges and nonjudicial personnel across the Fourth Judicial District on a range of important issues impacting court policies and operations, playing a pivotal part in the District's successful implementation of numerous initiatives. Among his many and varied roles throughout the years, he has participated on the court system's statewide hiring panels, managed the Fourth Judicial District's Attorney-Client Fee Dispute Arbitration Program, and served on the Appellate Division, Third Department's Committee on Character and Fitness (from 2014 to 2022).

Judge Singh began his legal career as an associate attorney at the Amsterdam, New York-based law firm of Horigan, Horigan & Lombardo, P.C., where he focused on civil litigation and estate matters. He earned his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton, majoring in management and finance, and his law degree from Albany Law School. He currently serves as president of the Montgomery County Bar Association and is a past president of the Board of Trustees of the Sarah J. Sanford Home for Elderly Women and the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, among his numerous other affiliations.

"I extend my sincere appreciation to Judge Catena for his stewardship of the Fourth Judicial District over the past four years, during which he helped shepherd a variety of progressive initiatives and programs. I applaud his leadership in implementing technological advances within the District and his championship of the District's problem-solving courts, among his other accomplishments. We offer our most sincere best wishes on his retirement," said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.

Judge Singh's appointment will be effective January 1, 2024.

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