



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

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Chief Judge Wilson Appoints Co-Chair to Court Modernization Action Committee

*Committee Issues First Progress Report on Ongoing
Efforts to Advance Technology in the New York State Courts*

NEW YORK—Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas today announced the appointment of Hon. Patria Frias-Colón as Co-Chair of the Court Modernization Action Committee (CMAC), a working group comprising judicial, bar and community leaders, among others, formed to support and advise the Court System in implementing technology initiatives to increase efficiency and enhance access to equal justice. As Co-Chair, Justice Frias-Colón will join CMAC Chair Hon. Craig Doran, Ontario County Supreme Court Justice, and Co-Chairs Scott Reents and William Silverman, of Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP and Proskauer Rose LLP respectively, in helming the Committee.

The appointment of Justice Frias-Colón comes as the CMAC issues its inaugural progress report which, available at www.nycourts.gov/LegacyPDFS/CMI/Report-Feb2024.pdf, highlights strides the Court System has made in leveraging technology to streamline operations and details the next steps in continuing to advance the courts' post-pandemic modernization efforts.

“Justice Frias-Colón’s energetic leadership and broad-based experience will be an asset to this diverse, distinguished panel, which has already made significant headway in its study and guidance of the Court System’s modernization efforts, as documented in the Committee’s inaugural report,” said Chief Judge Wilson. “I am thankful to Justice Doran, CMAC Co-Chairs Reents and Silverman, and the CMAC members for their outstanding efforts leading up to today’s report and eager to work with them and Co-Chair Frias-Colón as CMAC continues to help lead the Court System into the future.”

“Justice Frias-Colón is an ideal choice for this important role. She has a collaborative leadership style and a deep commitment to making the courts more accessible to litigants and all court users. I am pleased that she will be joining CMAC’s leadership team,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. “I also want to express my gratitude to CMAC for their excellent report and all their hard work to date. Of course, we also are greatly indebted to the Court System’s Division of Technology and Division of Court Modernization for their respective roles—and herculean efforts—as they build on pandemic-related innovations to create a more efficient, effective, and user-friendly Court System that embraces today’s changes and better prepares us for tomorrow’s challenges.”

“Critical to our system of justice is ensuring equal and equitable access. I am so grateful to be a part of this amazing and dedicated team. With the uncompromising support of our current leadership, our work continues to make a difference. I am thankful to Chief Judge Wilson and Chief Administrative Judge Zayas for this opportunity, as well as to Presiding Justice LaSalle for having the foresight to nominate me for the committee from its inception. I look forward to continuing the necessary work in this role,” said Justice Frias-Colón.

Justice Frias-Colón sits on the State Supreme Court bench in Kings County, to which she was elected in November 2022. Following her election in 2017 to the New York City Civil Court, she first joined the New York State bench in 2018 and was designated an acting Family Court judge, serving the New York City Family Court in Manhattan until 2020. She subsequently returned home to Brooklyn, where she sat in the Kings County Civil Court until 2022, then served as Supervising Judge for the New York City Civil Court in Queens County until her election to the State Supreme Court.

Prior to her ascension to the bench, she was a Borough Chief (Brooklyn) in the New York City Law Department’s Family Court Division, and before that an Assistant Deputy Counsel to the Chancellor for the New York City Department of Education. She was also an Adjunct Professor at St. John’s University School of Education. She began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn. Justice Frias-Colón earned her law degree from Hofstra Law School. Justice Frias-Colón serves as Chair of the Advisory Board for Medgar Evers College Preparatory School and is a member of the Latino Judges Association and the Dominican Bar Association, among her other affiliations. Her mantra is, “to whom much is given, much is required.”

Her appointment is effective immediately.

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