



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

**Contact:
Al Baker, Communications Director
Arlene Hackel
(212) 428-2500
publicinformation@nycourts.gov
www.nycourts.gov/press**

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Law Day 2024 Celebrated at New York's Court of Appeals

*Judith S. Kaye Service Award Recipients,
Law Day Art Contest Winners Honored at Event*

NEW YORK—Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George today officiated at the New York State Courts' Law Day celebration which, in keeping with tradition, was held at the majestic Court of Appeals Hall in Albany. Chief Judge Wilson, New York State Solicitor General Barbara Underwood, and New York State Bar Association President Richard Lewis provided insightful remarks, underscoring the importance both of this special day—an annual tribute to our nation's rule of law—and this year's theme, "Voices of Democracy," which encourages civic participation in ensuring that our government remains responsive to the wishes of the people.

This year's Law Day theme closely aligns with Chief Judge Wilson's vision to "ramp up the court system's commitment to energizing civic engagement around the State." Since Chief Judge Wilson's appointment last year, the court system has significantly boosted its public outreach and education efforts, launching a paid summer internship program for recent high school graduates, among numerous other initiatives. "It is the responsibility of every American to impart to the next generation the values upon which our nation was founded, if our democracy is to flourish," he emphasized.

Later in the program, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George presented the prestigious Judith S. Kaye Service Awards to nine exemplary non-judicial employees on behalf of Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas, who could not attend the program because he was out of the country. The awards are named for New York's iconic—and the State's first female and longest-serving—Chief Judge, with recipients honored in one of three categories: exemplary work performance; community service and humanitarian pursuits; and heroism (on or off the job).

Queens County Family Court Network Systems Engineer Mark Chou and Appellate Division, Second Department (Mental Hygiene Legal Service) Senior Court Analyst Chandra Nash were acknowledged for their dedicated and proactive efforts on the job, which have led to greater efficiencies and other improvements in court operations and services. Each was presented with the Judith S. Kaye Service Award for Exemplary Work Performance.

Captain Jessica Herrera of the court system's Department of Public Safety in Manhattan, along with Lieutenant Erica Prosper and Captain Vincent Sinclair of Brooklyn's Court Officers Academy, were recognized for their deep commitment to the court system's public outreach efforts, each having donated countless hours to help build stronger bridges between New York's courts and communities. The trio were honored with Judith S. Kaye Service Awards in the community service category. Also earning a Judith S. Kaye Award for community service was Court Officer Andrew LaBosco of Kings County Criminal Court, a long-time volunteer with the Law Enforcement Explorers, which provides young people (ages 14 to 21) from underrepresented communities the opportunity to explore a variety of career paths, also helping them develop essential life skills.

In the heroism category, Lieutenant Brendan Mullaney of New York County Supreme Court's Criminal Term received a Judith S. Kaye Service Award for his brave, decisive actions this past December. Lt. Mullaney, a Long Island resident, made local headlines after assisting a neighboring family to safely evacuate their residence when the home became engulfed in flames. Court Assistant Josephine (Jodi) Rimmer and Deputy Chief Clerk April Schmick of the Schoharie Multi-Bench Court, west of Albany, were also presented with Judith S. Kaye Service Awards for their resolve in handling an incident last December. When a potentially hazardous package was delivered to the courthouse, they responded quickly, calmly, and thoughtfully, preventing any further escalation of the emergency.

"On behalf of the judicial leadership team and the entire court system, I commend these nine remarkable individuals. Their dedication, professionalism, humility, and selflessness fill us all with pride and gratitude. We are indebted to today's honorees for their exemplary service to the court system and New York State," said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George. "I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our hardworking judges and non-judicial personnel systemwide for their dedicated service and ongoing contributions throughout the year."

The event concluded with an announcement of the winners of the Law Day 2024 Art Contest, a partnership of the court system's Office for Justice Initiatives and the Historical Society of the New York Courts. High school students statewide were invited to participate in the contest, submitting original artwork inspired by the "Voices of Democracy" Law Day theme. This year's winners are Mitchell Homick (first place) of Auburn High School in Cayuga County (Seventh Judicial District) for "Liberty Sings"; Shangjing Chen (second place), General Douglas MacArthur High School, Nassau County (Tenth Judicial District) for "Democracy Bring Us Together; and Milo Brustein (third place), Home Instruction, Kings County (Second Judicial District) for "The Source of Our Voices." In addition to being recognized at this year's Law Day ceremony, the art

contest winners will receive cash prizes, courtesy of the Historical Society, and have their artwork featured on the court system's website at:

https://ww2.nycourts.gov/ip/nya2j/Courts_Community_Center/lawday.shtml.

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