



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

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New OCA Division Created to Best Serve Court System's Grants, Contracts and Procurement Management Needs

NEW YORK—As the Unified Court System builds upon its plans to modernize court facilities, upgrade digital systems, and implement other projects to advance the delivery of justice, it is moving simultaneously to strengthen the infrastructure of its grants, contracts, and procurement-related functions to more effectively support these critical projects and initiatives.

To best manage the ever-growing, increasingly complex responsibilities involved in this important work, Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George today announced the establishment of the Office of Court Administration's (OCA) new Division of Grants, Contracts, and Procurement.

"Our aim of making widespread improvements across all facets of our judicial system—and in every corner of our great state—depends on the intensive, centralized oversight of the court system's large portfolio of grants and contracts, including the many procurement and compliance-related responsibilities," said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. "With its integrative structure and additional resources, the new division will bring greater efficiencies to this crucial management area, especially at a time of increased reliance on external funding to facilitate the courts' high-priority programs and projects."

In the last two years, under Judge Zayas's leadership, the court system has successfully leveraged external funding for its ambitious slate of projects aimed at improving the quality of justice. These projects, myriad in scope, range from initiatives to help close the state's civil justice gap to innovative programs to reduce recidivism, along with numerous others.

Additionally, the number of contracts managed by OCA for services and goods—among them, contracts for a reimagined website and upgraded courtroom technology to better serve the range of court users—has significantly grown, prompting Judges Zayas and St. George to create the independent division.

In announcing the new division, Judges Zayas and St. George said it will comprise four units: Contracts and Procurement, Fiscal, Contract Monitoring and Grants, and be led by Frank Woods, a longstanding court system employee with unparalleled expertise in grants and contracts management.

“Frank Woods is an exemplary public servant with just the right blend of knowledge, experience, and integrity to oversee this crucial mandate,” added Judges Zayas and St. George. “We look forward to the ideas and energy he will bring as director of the new Division of Grants, Contracts, and Procurement.”

Mr. Woods will begin his work immediately, setting up a team of staff members across several disciplines to oversee the voluminous workload.

“Fundamentally, my gold-standard management practices will remain the same,” said Mr. Woods. “Now, they’ll simply be applied to enhanced grants, contracts, and procurement structures that, reflecting the importance of the new division’s role and duties, will drive further advancements for the New York State Courts and all who use them.”



Frank Woods

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