



Furthering Justice Through Education

AGENDA

2025

Hon. Rowan D. Wilson
Chief Judge of the State of New York

Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York



Hon. Norman St. George
First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York

Hon. Kathie E. Davidson
Dean of the New York State Judicial Institute

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

8:00 am - 9:35 am	Registration & Breakfast	Garden Terrace & Atrium
9:45 am - 9:55 am	Dean's Welcome & Introduction to Judicial Education Video By New York State Court Leadership Hon. Kathie E. Davidson, <i>Dean, New York State Judicial Institute</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Greetings from Leadership Hon. Rowan D. Wilson, <i>Chief Judge of the State of New York</i> Hon. Joseph A. Zayas, <i>Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York</i> Hon. Norman St. George, <i>First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:40 am - 11:10 am	Remarks from the Deputy Chief Administrative Judges Hon. Edwina G. Richardson, <i>Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives</i> Hon. James P. Murphy, <i>Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the Courts Outside New York City</i> Hon. Adam Silvera, <i>Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts</i>	Grand Ballroom
11:10 am - 11:30 am	Reconnect with Leadership and Colleagues	
Plenary Session 11:35 am - 1:05 pm	<u>Judicial Ethics and The Use of Artificial Intelligence</u> Hon. Vito M. DeStefano, Hon. Patria Frias-Colón, Hon. Francis Ricigliano, Rosemary Garland Scott, Esq. <i>This session, presented jointly by the Statewide Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics, will examine the ethical challenges judges face when incorporating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into their work. The committee members will discuss how existing judicial ethics rules apply to AI, review relevant authorities, including ethics opinions, and explore potential risks, such as bias, overreliance, or misuse by judges. The session will offer guidance on how to navigate these emerging issues responsibly and ethically.</i>	Grand Ballroom
1:05 pm - 1:50 pm	Lunch	Garden Terrace & Atrium

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Breakout Sessions

2:00 pm - 2:50 pm

All Tracks:

Ensuring an Inclusive and Accessible Courtroom Through Language Access and the ADA

Grand Ballroom A-C

Hon. Raja Rajeswari, Daniel Weitz, Esq.,
James F. Tardy, Esq., Amy Pontillo, Esq., Ann Ryan

This session explores how language access and ADA compliance can be used to create an inclusive and accessible courtroom for all court users. It also provides practical advice for judges when working with court interpreters and highlight real-life challenges that may arise in court proceedings.

All Civil Tracks:

Incorporating ADR in Your Courtroom

Grand Ballroom D

Hon. Adam Silvera, Hon. Danielle M. Fogel,
Lisa Courtney, Esq. (Moderator)

This session offers firsthand insights on how ADR enhances efficiency and effectiveness in courtrooms. Judges will learn practical strategies and benefits of integrating ADR to streamline case management and improve outcomes.

Court of Claims:

How to Manage Attorneys & Pro Se Claimants

Sleepy Hollow

Hon. Frank P. Milano, Hon. Linda K. Mejias-Glover,
Hon. Kathleen B. Hogan, Hon. Francisco Calderon

This session will employ common scenarios to facilitate discussion on managing difficult and/or recalcitrant attorneys and pro se litigants in court proceedings.

Criminal:

Certificates of Relief from Civil Disabilities

Tarrytown Ballroom

Eric Washer, Esq. (Moderator), Melissa Ader, Esq.,
KB White, Esq., Jason Hoge, Esq.

This session will equip judges with the legal foundation, recent legislative updates, and practical tools to issue Certificates of Relief from Disabilities (CRDs) at the time of sentencing in alignment with Correction Law § 702 and Uniform Trial Court Rule 200.9.

Family & Matrimonial:

Legal Update

Westchester Ballroom

Hon. Bruce Wagner (Ret.)

Judges will analyze recent cases and legislative developments affecting matrimonial and family law and practice.

2:50 pm - 3:00 pm

Break

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Breakout Sessions

3:05 pm - 4:20 pm

Article 81 Guardianship:

Overview of MHL Article 81 and Caselaw Review

Grand Ballroom E

Hon. David H. Guy (Moderator), Linda A. Redlisky, Esq.,
Felicia Rosen, Esq., Catherine Cotter, Esq.

This session will provide an overview of MHL Article 81 cases, with particular focus on alternative resolutions, including MHL 81.16 protective arrangements and single transactions; termination, modification, and removal applications under MHL 81.35 and 81.36; abuses and misuses of the Article 81 process; and a caselaw update. Outlines of the covered topics, a guideline/checklist for conducting an Article 81 hearing, and selected forms will be included in the session materials.

Commercial:

Judgment Enforcement & Fraudulent Conveyance Law

Grand Ballroom A-C

Hon. Henry Nowak, Hon. Saliann Scarpulla

This session provides with an overview of the legal principles and procedural tools involved in enforcing judgments and addressing fraudulent asset transfers. It emphasizes recent case law, statutory interpretation, and practical considerations relevant to judicial decision-making in these complex matters.

Criminal:

Applying Erlinger to New York's Recidivist

Sentencing Statutes

Tarrytown Ballroom

Hon. Barry Kamins (Ret.), Hon. Michael Kitsis, Hon. Michael Yavinsky

In Erlinger v. United States, the Supreme Court ruled that sentencing enhancements based on factual determinations must be made by a jury, not a judge, and found beyond a reasonable doubt. This panel will summarize the background of the case and discuss the application of Erlinger to New York's sentencing enhancement determinations.

Family & Matrimonial:

Evidence Practicum for Family & Matrimonial Judges

Westchester Ballroom

Hon. Jeffrey Sunshine, Hon. Richard Rivera, Stephen Gassman, Esq.

The objective of this session is to actively engage judges in the identification and analysis of evidentiary issues relevant to family court and matrimonial cases.

Local Civil & Landlord-Tenant Courts

(City, District, NYC Civil, & NYC Housing):

Calendar Management, Courtroom Management, & Data Integrity

Grand Ballroom F-H

Hon. Shahabuddeen Ally (moderator)

Hon. Robert Helbock, Hon. Miriam Brier, Hon. Tashanna Golden

This interactive session offers practical training in calendar management, courtroom operations, and data integrity, equipping participants with essential tools to enhance efficiency and uphold procedural accuracy in legal settings. Through real-world scenarios and collaborative exercises, attendees will develop the skills necessary to effectively manage court schedules, maintain orderly proceedings, and ensure the reliability of legal data.

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Supreme Civil:

Selected Issues in Article 78 Proceedings

Hon. Tracy Catapano-Fox, Hon. Eddie McShan

This session offers judges an in-depth examination of complex legal and procedural questions arising under CPLR Article 78, including the standards and considerations for granting emergency relief. The speakers highlight recent case law and practical guidance to support fair and timely adjudication of these often time-sensitive matters.

Grand Ballroom D

Surrogate's:

Developments in Trusts and Estates Law:

Surrogate's Court Case Law Update

Hon. Michael Hayes, Hon. Deborah Kearns

This interactive session will focus on new developments in the law of wills, trusts, and estates through a discussion of recent decisions—both published and unpublished. It will highlight several complex and interesting issues that Surrogates have faced over the past two years.

Putnam

4:20 pm - 4:30 pm

Break

Plenary Session

4:35 pm - 6:05 pm

2024 State of the Judiciary Address
by Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson

Grand Ballroom

6:20 pm - 7:30 pm

Reception & Dinner
Featuring The Carlos Jimenez Mambo Dulcet

Garden Terrace

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

7:00 am - 7:45 am

YOGA with JULIE BROGLIN

Westchester Ballroom

Start your day by realigning the physical body and oxygenation with yogic breathing for vitality, balance, clarity, and peace of mind/emotions. Towels will be provided for a fresh clean floor surface so you won't have to bring mats. This class is designed for those new to yoga as well experienced practitioners.

7:30 am - 8:25 am

Breakfast

Garden Terrace

Breakout Sessions

8:30 am - 11:40 am

Article 81 Guardianship:

Grand Ballroom A-C

1. Dealing with Dementia & Determining Legal Incapacity

Hon. Chris Ann Kelley (Moderator)

Robert Abrams, Esq., Ellyn S. Kravitz, Esq., Robert I. Goldman, J.D., Psy.D

This session provides judges with guidance on evaluating petitions under MHL Article 81 where cognitive decline, particularly dementia, is at issue. The session also explores medical, legal, and practical considerations in determining incapacity and tailoring appropriate guardianship remedies.

2. Public Benefits for the Elderly & Infirm : An Overview of SNAP and SCRIE

Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff (Moderator), Abby Biberman, Esq., Peter Kempner, Esq.

This session equips judges with a foundational understanding of two key public assistance programs that may impact individuals subject to MHL Article 81 proceedings. The session covers eligibility, application processes, and the role these benefits play in ensuring the well-being and stability of elderly and infirm individuals.

3. Handling Trusts in the Guardianship Realm

Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff (Moderator), Joan Robert, Esq., Tara Anne Pleat, Esq.

This session provides judges with an overview of how various types of trusts intersect with MHL Article 81 guardianship proceedings. The session addresses issues such as trust administration, the guardian's authority and limitations, and the impact of trusts on the individual's financial needs and public benefits eligibility.

Breakout Sessions

8:45 am - 11:40 am

Court of Claims:

Sleepy Hollow

1. Neurobiology of Trauma/Understanding Victim Testimony

James W. Hopper, Ph. D.

Stress and trauma can alter thinking, behavior, and memory during and after sexual assault, including in the courtroom. Participants in this session will learn about the key brain circuitries impacted by stress and trauma and gain increased understanding of brain-based experiences, behaviors, and memory characteristics. This session will also provide judges with a critical foundation for developing and maintaining trauma-informed court proceedings.

2. Assessing Monetary Damages in a Civil Claim and Ethical Considerations in ADR

Hon Gina M. Lopez Summa

Employing hypothetical fact patterns, the presenters will teach judges how to assess monetary damages when conducting settlement conferences/ADR in a civil case. Key factors, important resources, and other practical considerations including how to assess psychological and emotional damages will be discussed. Additionally, the presenters will address ethical considerations pertaining to settlement conferences and ADR, as well as proscriptions when a judge conducts ADR in a claim over which the judge is presiding.

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

3. Mock ADR Session

Hon. Richard E. Sise, Hon. Gina M. Lopez Summa,
Hon. Walter Rivera, Hon. Catherine E. Leahy-Scott

Utilizing fact patterns, Judge, Claimant and defense counsel will conduct a mock ADR session. Judges will learn the “nuts and bolts” of conducting a settlement conference/ADR.

Breakout Sessions

8:45 am - 10:00 am

All Tracks:

Poverty Simulation

This session will not be recorded.

Lisa M. Zayas, Esq.

Poverty is often viewed as a single issue without considering how complex and interconnected issues of poverty really are. The Poverty Simulation is an experiential training that cultivates empathy for those experiencing poverty and promotes collaboration among participants. This is accomplished by assigning participants to family units and requiring them to make critical life decisions using limited resources. Participants will be provided the opportunity to discuss their experience during a debrief immediately following the simulation.

Westchester Ballroom

Commercial, Family, Matrimonial, & Supreme Civil:

An Examination of the Standards for

Civil & Criminal Contempt

Hon. Jeffrey Sunshine, Hon. Cheryl Joseph, Hon. John Brunetti (Ret.)

This session offers an in-depth analysis of the legal standards governing civil and criminal contempt, highlighting key distinctions, procedural requirements, and relevant case law. Judges will learn tips and best practices for navigating contempt proceedings. The speakers will also discuss the care that must be taken when contempt orders must be issued.

Grand Ballroom D-E

Criminal:

The Preliminary Hearing

Hon. Erin E. Hart, Hon. Peter J. Savage III

In most counties in New York State, including New York City, cases proceed directly to the grand jury. Some jurisdictions, however, will first hold a preliminary hearing pursuant to CPL 180.60. This focus of this session will be conducting the often-overlooked preliminary hearing.

Tarrytown Ballroom

Local Civil & Landlord-Tenant Courts (City, District, & NYC Civil):

The Art of NYBench Note-taking

Hon. Javier Ortiz, Hon. Edit Shkreli

This session is designed to help judges master effective, organized, and strategic note-taking within the NYBench case management system. Participants will learn techniques to enhance judicial decision-making and streamline case review through clear, actionable digital notes.

Grand Ballroom F-H

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

NYC Housing:

2025 Landlord-Tenant Case Law Update

Zara Friedman, Esq.

This session examines recent decisions impacting substantive and procedural issues in landlord-tenant cases.

Dutchess

Surrogate's:

Special Notices in Surrogate's Court Proceedings:

Who Needs to Know and Why?

Kerri Bringslid, Esq., Brooke S. Morris, Esq.

This presentation will provide an overview of special notices in Surrogate's Court, including who must receive them and when they must be served. It will also address recurring issues and inconsistencies that arise in practice and suggest approaches to ensure compliance with the governing statutes.

Putnam

10:00 am - 10:10 am

Break

Breakout Sessions

10:15 am - 11:30 am

All Tracks:

Poverty Simulation (Continued)

Lisa M. Zayas, Esq.

Westchester Ballroom

Commercial & Supreme Civil:

2025 CPLR Update

Prof. Patrick M. Connors

This session examines recent amendments, key case law developments, and emerging trends under the CPLR. The speaker highlights practical implications for courtroom procedure and judicial decision-making.

Grand Ballroom D

Criminal:

Criminal Justice Reform 2025: Legislative Updates including Changes to New York's Discovery Laws

Hon. Dineen Riviezzo, Hon. Daniel Conviser, Anthony Perri, Esq.

This session will review the changes to New York's Discovery Laws and CPL Article 182 (Alternate Method of Court Appearance) that were included in the FY2026 state budget agreement.

Tarrytown Ballroom

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Family & Matrimonial:

Schooling the Bench: Effectively Addressing

Education-Related Concerns in Orders and Agreements

Grand Ballroom F-H

Hon. Jeffrey Goodstein (Moderator), Hon. Cheryl Joseph, Hon. Caren Loguercio, Andrew Freedman, Esq., Diane Inbody, Esq., Carol Melnick, Esq., Daniel Morton-Bentley, Esq., Chrystal O'Connor, Esq.

In this session, judges presiding over family and matrimonial cases explore how custody determinations can impact school and education related issues. Topics will include: the practical effect of residential custody for school enrollment; authority and decision making relating to pickups and drop-offs at school; special education matters; emergency contacts; how schools navigate orders of protection issues; subpoenas and access to the parent portal and school records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Local Civil & Landlord-Tenant Courts

(City, District, NYC Civil, & NYC Housing):

Difficult Procedural Issues that Regularly Arise in High-Volume Courts

Grand Ballroom E

Hon. Leslie Granger, Hon. Jeffrey Zellan, Hon. Nichelle A. Johnson

This session addresses common and complex procedural challenges faced by judges in City, District, NYC Civil, and NYC Housing Courts. Among other things, the speakers offer practical guidance on navigating high-volume caseloads while ensuring procedural justice, efficiency, and adherence to legal standards.

Surrogate's:

Advice and Direction Proceedings and Construction of In Terrorem Clauses

Putnam

Hon. Peter Kelly, Hon. Rita Mella, Hon. Acea Mosey

Using recent decisions, the speakers will discuss the new trend of fiduciaries' use of advice and direction proceedings as well as requests for construction of in terrorem clauses to have the Surrogate "bless" their conduct or actions.

11:30 am - 11:40 am

Break

Plenary Session

11:45 am - 1:15 pm

Judicial Ethics: Balancing Professional Duty & Political Boundaries in New York

Grand Ballroom

Hon. Joanne Quiñones, Hon. Dineen Riviezzo, Laura Smith, Esq

This session addresses the unique challenges New York judges face when balancing their judicial role with civic engagement and political realities in the current environment. Members and staff of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics will discuss some of the Committee's published opinions in this area that judges may review for guidance.

1:15 pm - 2:05 pm

Lunch

Garden Terrace

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Plenary Session

2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

The Neuroscience of Judicial Decision-Making: Accuracy, Excellence, and Impartiality

Grand Ballroom

This session will not be recorded.

Kimberly Papillon, Esq.

In this interactive session, participants explore emerging research in neuroscience showing how judges reason through cases and react to court users. Brain imaging studies are used to explain how judges determine credibility, intelligence, threat, and competence in our society. fMRI studies are used to reveal why litigants, attorneys, and jurors react to actions in the courtroom. Decisions regarding penalties in criminal and civil matters are explored. The participants explore new methods for reaching the time-honored goal of impartial decision-making in the courts. The session identifies ways to increase fairness guided by science.

3:30 pm - 3:40 pm

Break

Plenary Session

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

The Neuroscience of Judicial Decision-Making: Accuracy, Excellence, and Impartiality (Continued)

Grand Ballroom

Kimberly Papillon, Esq.

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Reception & Dinner

Garden Terrace

Thursday, July 10, 2025

7:00 am - 7:45 am	YOGA with JULIE BROGLIN <i>Start your day by realigning the physical body and oxygenation with yogic breathing for vitality, balance, clarity, and peace of mind/emotions. Towels will be provided for a fresh clean floor surface so you won't have to bring mats. This class is designed for those new to yoga as well experienced practitioners.</i>	Westchester Ballroom
7:30 am - 8:45 am	Breakfast	Garden Terrace
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Court Modernization in Practice: A Guided Visit to the Technologically Enhanced Orange County Courthouse Pre-registration Required	
Plenary Session 9:00 am - 10:15 am	2025 State of the Judiciary Address by Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson	Grand Ballroom
10:15 am - 10:25 am	Break	
Breakout Sessions: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Civil and Criminal: <u>Modern Evidence: Emerging Challenges and Issues in New York Civil and Criminal Courts</u> Hon. John Curran, Hon. David Everett, Hon. Wavny Toussaint, Prof. Michael Hutter <i>This session is designed to equip judges with practical tools for navigating evolving evidentiary issues, including admissibility of electronic evidence, expert witness challenges, hearsay and business records (e.g., electronic business records), and use of AI-generated content. Through an analysis of case law, statutes, and hypotheticals, participants will enhance their ability to make timely and reasoned rulings from the bench. The speakers also offer practical strategies for evaluating new types of evidence in the courtroom.</i>	Grand Ballroom E
	Commercial: <u>Insights into Current Trends in Trials and Appeals of Commercial Cases: The View from Bench and Bar</u> Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy, Hon. Timothy Driscoll, Amit Vora, Esq., Mark Zauderer, Esq. <i>This session explores emerging trends in trials and appeals of commercial cases, offering insights from judges and experienced litigators. The speakers cover both trial and appellate practice in a particular substantive area of commercial litigation and provide general information on current developments in commercial law. Attendees will gain practical perspectives on judicial decision-making and evolving strategies in complex commercial matters.</i>	Grand Ballroom F-H

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Family:

Unfiltering Adoption:

Dealing with Complex Family Matters

Westchester Ballroom

Lori Holden, Kelsey Vander Vliet Ranyard, Sara Easterly, Tony Hynes

This program provides an in-depth exploration of modern adoption practices, with a focus on adoptee-centered perspectives and inclusive family dynamics. Led by adoptees Sara Easterly and Tony Hynes, birth parent Kelsey Vander Vliet Ranyard, and adoptive parent Lori Holden, the session 1) Challenges outdated ideas about adoption and what's truly in the "best interest of the child; 2) Reveals what professionals and families need to understand about attachment in supporting adoptees' maturation process; 3) Emphasizes the why and how to humanize birth parents; and 4) Stresses the need for expansive openNESS in adoption (not to be confused with open adoption). Judges will gain practical insights into the complexities and challenges of contemporary adoption, infused with emerging best-practices, and leave with ideas for truly centering adoptees in the courtroom and beyond.

Matrimonial :

QDROS and Retirement Valuations

Tarrytown Ballroom

Hon. Laura Drager (Ret.), Denisa Tova-Liebman, CFP, CDFA, CQS, MBA

This session will guide judges through the critical distinctions between retirement plan types in divorce, highlight risks associated with vague or improper settlement language, and offer practical tips to avoid post-judgment issues related to QDROs and plan division.

Criminal:

Mobile Device Forensics

Grand Ballroom A-C

Hon. Eric Sachs, Hon. Paul McDonnell, Doug Rome

Mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones frequently yield evidence of everything from criminal activity to corporate misconduct. Beginning with a unique demonstration on the collection and processing of digital evidence from personal devices, this session will provide judges with the legal framework for reviewing search warrant applications for mobile devices and/ admitting this type of evidence at trial.

Surrogate's:

Black Robes & Black Boxes:

Courts, AI, and the Next Judicial Frontier

Putnam

Hon. Stephen Cass, Prof. Raymond Brescia, Eva-Marie Cusack, Esq.

This presentation offers a focused overview where courts have addressed—or been compelled to consider—the use of artificial intelligence (AI) within the legal community. As AI tools become increasingly integrated into legal research, drafting, litigation strategy, and judicial decision-making, courts across jurisdictions are beginning to confront novel legal and ethical questions about transparency, accountability, and reliability.

NYC Housing:

Overcharges, Recent Developments, and Open Questions

Dutchess

Hon. Karen M. Bacdayan, Anthony Morreale, Esq., Emilio Paesano, Esq.

This session will examine the evolving legal framework for rent overcharge claims in New York, from the transformative impact of the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 (HSTPA) through the New York Court of Appeals' 2025 decision in Burrows v 75-25 153rd Street, LLC (2025 WL 863241, 2025 NY Slip Op 01669). The session will address key developments, interpretive shifts, and unresolved questions surrounding overcharge calculations, evidentiary standards, and regulatory enforcement.

Thursday, July 10, 2025

12:00 pm- 12:25 pm

Working Lunch

Pick up lunch and bring it to your 12:30 session.

Breakout Sessions:

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Article 81 Guardianship:

Medicaid Review and Update for Judges

Grand Ballroom A-C

Hon. Charles Troia (Moderator)

Tzvi Saperstein, Esq., Rebecca Wallach, Esq.

This session provides an overview of current developments in Medicaid law and policy, with a focus on eligibility, benefits, and administrative procedures. This session also offers practical guidance on analyzing and deciding Medicaid-related matters in light of evolving federal and state regulations.

Commercial & Supreme Civil:

Provisional Remedies (including attachments and TROs)

Grand Ballroom F-H

Hon. Joel M. Cohen, Hon. Nancy Bannon, Hon. John Higgitt

This session examines the use of provisional remedies in civil litigation, focusing on the legal standards, procedures, and judicial considerations involved in granting attachments, temporary restraining orders (TROs), and other pre-judgment remedies. The session will provide practical guidance for evaluating provisional remedy applications while safeguarding due process.

Criminal:

Mosley, Molineux and More: Resolving Pre-Trial Issues

Tarrytown Ballroom

Hon. Joseph McCormack

This session looks at the use of uncharged bad acts to show propensity following the decision in People v. Weinstein, when a non-eyewitness can testify that the defendant is the person depicted in a surveillance video pursuant to People v. Mosely, and other pre-trial issues.

Family & Matrimonial:

Understanding Coercive Control: Addressing Safety and Accountability in the Court System

Westchester Ballroom

Lórien Castelle, April Maas, Abigail Murat

This training is designed to deepen Family Court Judges' understanding of coercive control within the broader context of gender-based and domestic violence (GBV/DV). Drawing on current research and real-world cases, it highlights non-physical, often non-criminal tactics of abuse that pose serious safety risks to survivors and children. Judges will examine the gendered nature and prevalence of GBV/DV, the ongoing impact of coercive control post-separation-including litigation abuse-and the importance of maintaining objectivity without losing sight of context. The session also clarifies the distinction between being domestic violence-informed and biased, ultimately equipping judges to recognize coercive control, interpret behaviors through a trauma-informed lens, and make safety-centered decisions in the best interests of the child.

Thursday, July 10, 2025

All Landlord-Tenant Courts:

Non-Tenant Occupants of Dwellings:

Rights, Responsibilities, and Legal Considerations

Dutchess

Hon. Shorab Ibrahim, Carlos Perez-Hall, Esq., Jeremiah Schlotman, Esq.

This session explores the legal status, rights, and responsibilities of non-tenant occupants, such as family members, licensees, and tenants at sufferance, and examines the judicial considerations involved in resolving possession and eviction disputes involving these individuals.

All Local Civil Courts

(City, District, & NYC Civil):

Emergency Issues in Motion Practice

Grand Ballroom E

Hon. Ira Greenberg, Hon. Monique Holaman, Hon. Nichelle A. Johnson

This session addresses urgent legal matters that require immediate judicial intervention to prevent irreparable harm, maintain the status quo, or protect time-sensitive rights. Topics will include certain ex parte applications, temporary restraining orders (TROs), preliminary injunctions, stay requests, and emergency discovery or preservation orders. The session will provide guidance on evaluating the legitimacy and urgency of emergency motions while ensuring due process and fairness for all parties. The speakers will also share best practices for handling high-pressure situations, managing court resources, addressing ethical considerations, and avoiding common procedural pitfalls in civil cases.

Supreme Civil:

Labor Law §§ 240(1), 241(6), 200:

Navigating Legal Foundations & Disputes

Grand Ballroom D

Hon. Devin Cohen, Hon. John Licata,

Brian Isaac, Esq., Bryce Moses, Esq., Karen Ondrovic, Esq.

This session provides judges with a comprehensive overview of Labor Law §§ 240(1), 241(6), and 200, focusing on their legal foundations, key distinctions, and practical implications in litigation. Through case analysis and discussion, participants will enhance their ability to navigate complex disputes involving construction site safety and worker protection statutes.

2:00 pm - 2:10 pm

Break

Breakout Sessions:

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

All Tracks:

THE FUTURE IS NOW: The Latest Update

from the Court Modernization Action Committee

Grand Ballroom E

Hon. Craig Doran, Hon. Patria Frias-Colón,

William Silverman, Esq., Christine Sisario

In this session, the leaders of the Court Modernization Action Committee (CMAC) will provide an update on progress and priorities for 2025, including the new Virtual Court Appearance Platform (VCAP) rollout. Participants will have the opportunity to view live court appearances being held in VCAP by some of our pilot courts during the session, and also have the chance to provide feedback and suggestions for CMAC's ongoing modernization focus areas.

Thursday, July 10, 2025

All Tracks:

Trauma and Well-Being for Judges

Grand Ballroom D

Dawn D'Amico, Ph.D.

Introduction by Daniel T. Lukasik, Esq., New York State Judicial Wellness Coordinator

This session is designed to assist judges in recognizing and managing the emotional impact of working with trauma. Participants will learn to distinguish between secondary and vicarious trauma, understand the role of empathy, and explore the effects of trauma exposure on self-awareness and personal well-being. This session provides tools to identify vulnerabilities and strengths, recognize internal stress signals, and apply emotional regulation techniques. Through an understanding of the stress cycle and healthy coping mechanisms across physical, cognitive, social, and emotional domains, judges will build empathic resilience and develop a personalized plan for sustained well-being.

Civil and Criminal:

How to Avoid Common Errors and Reversals:

Tips from Appellate Division Justices

Tarrytown Ballroom

Hon. Troy Webber (Moderator), Hon. John Curran,

Hon. John Higgitt, Hon. Carl Landicino, Hon. Stan Pritzker

This session offers trial judges practical guidance from Appellate Division Justices on how to avoid common judicial errors that often lead to reversals on appeal. Through case analysis and discussion, participants will gain insights into best practices for rulings, preserving the record, and crafting decisions that withstand appellate scrutiny.

Family & Matrimonial:

Setting the Record Straight on the

Role of the Attorney for the Child

Westchester Ballroom

Hon. Liberty Aldrich (Ret.), Melissa Friedman, Esq., Glenn Metsch-Ampel, Esq.

This session clarifies the legal and ethical responsibilities of the Attorney for the Child (AFC) in family court, addressing common misconceptions about the role. Drawing from case law and Rule 7.2 (Rules of the Chief Judge, 22 NYCRR 7.2), the session emphasizes the AFC's duty to advocate for the child's expressed wishes, not their perceived best interests, and explores how this advocacy supports, rather than undermines, judicial decision-making.