



COURT ATTORNEY REFEREE SEMINAR

AGENDA
March 25-26, 2026



New York State Judicial Institute
84 North Broadway, White Plains, New York 10603

Day 1 - March 25, 2026

8:00am - 8:55am	REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST	Omni Room
9:00am - 9:15am	Welcome <i>Hon. Joseph A. Zayas, Hon. Norman St. George, Hon. Kathie E. Davidson</i>	Lecture Hall
9:15am - 9:25am	Wellness Opening <i>Dr. Aimee Neri Gueye, LMSW, DSW</i>	Lecture Hall
9:25am - 10:40am	Protecting the Record & Protecting the Court Attorney Referee <i>Hon. Linda Christopher, Michael Godlewski, Esq., Phyllis Sambuco, Esq.</i>	Lecture Hall
10 MINUTE BREAK		
10:50am - 12:20pm	Judicial Ethics and the Use of Artificial Intelligence <i>Hon. Patria Frias-Colón & Rosemary Garland-Scott, Esq.</i>	Lecture Hall
12:20pm - 1:00pm	NETWORKING LUNCH	Omni Room
1:05pm - 2:35pm	Tools for Effective Settlement Conferences <i>Rebecca T. Price, Esq.</i>	Lecture Hall
10 MINUTE BREAK		
2:45pm - 4:15pm	Implicit Bias, Cultural Competence, and Neurodiversity in the Courtroom <i>Hon. Joanne M. Forbes, Dr. Victoria Verlezza, Dan Weitz, Esq.</i>	Lecture Hall
5 MINUTE BREAK		
4:20pm - 5:30pm	Advanced Decision-Making and Order Drafting for Court Attorney Referees <i>Hon. Gerald Lebovits</i>	Lecture Hall
5:30pm - 6:45pm	NETWORKING DINNER	

DAY 2 - March 26, 2026

8:30am - 9:00am	REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST	Omni Room
9:00am - 10:15am	FAMILY: Legal & Case Law Update <i>Janet Fink, Esq.</i>	Omni Room
	MATRIMONIAL: Legal Update <i>Bruce Wagner, Esq.</i>	305
	CIVIL: Court of Appeals Update <i>Brian Shoot, Esq.</i>	Lecture Hall
	SURROGATE'S: Legal Update <i>Hon. Deborah Kearns</i>	205
10 MINUTE BREAK		
10:25am - 11:55am	FAMILY & MATRIMONIAL: Emerging Issues in Evidence <i>Hon. Jeffrey Sunshine, Hon. Richard Rivera, Stephen Gassman, Esq.</i>	Omni Room
	CIVIL SUPREME: Emerging Issues in Evidence <i>Hon. Richard A. Dollinger (Ret.), Prof. Michael Hutter</i>	Lecture Hall
	SURROGATE'S: Contested Accounting Proceedings <i>Hon. Deborah Kearns, Eva-Marie Cusak, Esq., Eric Penzer, Esq.</i>	205
12:00pm - 12:55pm	NETWORKING LUNCH	Omni Room
1:00pm - 2:00pm	FAMILY: Paternity Proceedings: Procedures and Best Practices for Court Attorney Referees <i>Darlene Jorif-Mangane, Esq.</i>	Omni Room
	MATRIMONIAL: Case Management for Matrimonial Referees <i>Hon. Jeffrey Goodstein, Jeremy Feinberg, Esq., Cara B. Ruda, Esq., Deborah Scinta, Esq.</i>	305
	CIVIL SUPREME: Discovery & Trial Practice - Part 1 <i>Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Hon. Tracy Catapano-Fox, Phyllis Sambuco, Esq.</i>	Lecture Hall
	SURROGATE'S: Uncommon Motion Practice <i>Eric Penzer, Esq.</i>	205

DAY 2 Continued - March 26, 2026

10 MINUTE BREAK

2:10pm - 3:10pm	FAMILY: Domestic Violence Considerations for Family Court Referees <i>Katherine Wurmfeld, Esq.</i>	Omni Room
	MATRIMONIAL: Equitable Distribution <i>Hon. Kimberly A. O'Connor, Michelle Haskin, Esq., Lee Rosenberg, Esq.</i>	305
	CIVIL SUPREME: Discovery & Trial Practice - Part 2 <i>Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Hon. Tracy Catapano-Fox, Phyllis Sambuco, Esq.</i>	Lecture Hall
	SURROGATE'S: Lost Will Proceedings <i>Andrew Herrera, Esq., Diane Matero, Esq.</i>	205

10 MINUTE BREAK

3:20pm - 4:50pm	FAMILY: Sharing Experiences, Shaping Practice: An Open Discussion with Family Court Referees <i>Darlene Jorif-Mangane, Esq., Michelle F. Roberts, Esq., Genna Teitelbaum, Esq.</i>	Omni Room
	MATRIMONIAL: Child Support & Maintenance <i>Hon. Cheryl Joseph, Hon. Keri Fiore</i>	305
	CIVIL SUPREME: Civil Motion Practice: The Basics and Emergency Issues <i>Hon. L. Austin D'Souza, Hon. Carmen Pacheco, Hon. E. Loren Williams</i>	Lecture Hall
	SURROGATE'S: Understanding Right of Election <i>Angelo Grasso, Esq.</i>	205

