

THE NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

Furthering Justice Through Education



NEW JUDGES SEMINAR ★ 2026

January 5, 2026 – January 14, 2026



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



SEMINAR AGENDA

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IN-PERSON SEMINAR GUIDE

Monday through Friday, January 5 - 9, 2026

Please see the following information to help you navigate the seminar when you arrive at the Judicial Institute for the week in-person:

- The seminar webpage can only be accessed on the Intranet, which is the internal UCS website. Login access is only available from your NYS Court office computer or through a VPN connection on your NYS issued laptop at <http://inside-ucs.org/ji/>.
- The Lecture Hall is located on the 1st floor of the Judicial Institute.
- The Omni Room is located on the 3rd floor of the Judicial Institute.
- The Executive Conference Room is located on the 3rd floor behind the glass doors.
- Room numbers preceded by "JI" are located within the Judicial Institute.
- Room numbers preceded by an "O" are located in Ottinger Hall in Pace Law School and are accessed through the double doors on the 2nd floor of the Judicial Institute.
- The Tudor Room is located in Pace Law School and is accessed through the double doors on the 2nd floor of the Judicial Institute. Proceed to the right down the hall.
- IT assistance can be found on the 1st floor of the JI in room 105.



IN-PERSON DAY 1

Monday, January 5, 2026

8:30 - 9:30	Registration and Breakfast	Lobby/Omni Room
9:30 - 12:30	Welcome Hon. Kathie E. Davidson, Dean of the New York State Judicial Institute Welcome and Remarks from the Chief Judge, Chief Administrative Judge, and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge 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 Welcome and Remarks from the Deputy Chief Administrative Judges Hon. Edwina G. Richardson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Hon. James P. Murphy, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the Courts Outside New York City Hon. Adam Silvera, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts Welcome and Remarks from the Statewide Coordinating Judges Hon. Jeffrey S. Sunshine, Statewide Coordinating Judge for Matrimonial Matters Hon. Richard Rivera, Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Court Matters Hon. Debra J. Young, Statewide Coordinating Judge for Problem-Solving Courts	Lecture Hall
12:45	Class Picture	Lecture Hall
12:45 - 1:40	Networking Lunch	Omni Room
1:45 - 3:15	<u>PLENARY A Judge's Day: Effectively Managing Your Courtroom Team to Ensure Procedural Justice</u> Hon. Norman St. George, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Hon. Tamiko Amaker, Administrative Judge, NYC Criminal Court In the context of a court system, procedural justice speaks to the idea of fair processes, and how litigants' perception of fairness is strongly impacted by the quality of their experiences and not only the end result of these experiences. Fair and efficient court operations can help create positive litigant experiences by ensuring transparency of the processes by which courts manage their cases and render their decisions. In this interactive session, the speakers will address issues judges frequently encounter while on the bench and how each member of the judge's courtroom team (e.g., the court clerk, interpreter, officer, reporter, and law clerk) can assist in the timely resolution of matters before the court. The speakers will also discuss how each member of the courtroom team interacts with the judge and other team members to foster fair and efficient court operations.	Lecture Hall
3:15 - 3:25	Break	



IN-PERSON DAY 1

Monday, January 5, 2026

3:30 - 4:50

Breakout Sessions

CITY, DISTRICT | Welcome to the City and District Courts

JI-305

Hon. Tricia M. Ferrell, Hon. JaHarr Pridgen

This session will provide valuable tips and strategies to assist City Court and District Court judges in their new role. The speakers will discuss practical techniques for dealing with a wide range of legal actions, case and courtroom management issues, unrepresented litigants, and motions.

CRIMINAL | Welcome to Criminal Court

O-101

Hon. Tamiko Amaker, Hon. Paul Wojtaszek

This session will provide an overview of the criminal courts within the Unified Court System. Significant time will also be dedicated to a discussion of what judges need to know with regard to bail law and procedure.

FAMILY | Welcome to Family Court

O-G02

Hon. Richard Rivera, Hon. Brenda Freedman, Hon. Caren Loguercio

This session will provide valuable tips and strategies to assist Family Court judges in their new role. The speakers will discuss practical techniques for dealing with the complex nature of the Family Court case docket, courtroom management issues, unrepresented litigants, and many other issues.

NYC CIVIL | Welcome to NYC Civil Court

O-G01

**Hon. Taisha Chambers, Hon. L. Austin D'Souza, Hon. Michael Goldman,
Hon. Robert Helbock, Hon. Carmen Pacheco**

This session will provide valuable tips and strategies to assist NYC Civil Court judges in their new role. The speakers will discuss practical techniques for dealing with a wide range of legal actions, case and courtroom management issues, unrepresented litigants, and motions.

NYC HOUSING | Welcome to NYC Housing Court

JI-205

Hon. Jack Stoller, Hon. Christel F. Garland, Hon. Kisha L. Miller

This session will provide valuable tips and strategies to assist NYC Housing Court judges in their new role. The speakers will discuss practical techniques for dealing with case and courtroom management issues, unrepresented litigants, and motions.

SUPREME CIVIL & MATRIMONIAL | Welcome to Supreme Civil

Lecture Hall

Hon. Amy C. Martoche, Hon. Lisa S. Ottley

This session will provide valuable tips and strategies to assist justices of the Supreme Court, Civil Term in their new role. The speakers will discuss practical techniques for dealing with a wide range of legal actions, case and courtroom management issues, unrepresented litigants, and motions.

5:00 - 7:00

Reception & Dinner

Tudor Room

Featuring The Carlos Jimenez Mambo Dulcet



IN-PERSON DAY 2

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast	Omni Room
8:30 - 9:30	<u>PLENARY Problem-Solving Courts: An Introduction</u> Hon. Debra J. Young Statewide Coordinating Judge Debra Young will provide an engaging introduction to New York's Problem-Solving Courts, outlining their mission, structure, and impact on participants and communities. This session offers a clear overview of how these innovative courts address underlying issues to promote safer, healthier outcomes. Judge Young will explain the distinctions among the various problem-solving court models and describe the judge's role within them. Particular attention will be given to the best-practice standards that guide these courts and to strategies for ensuring that both the judge and the court team adhere to those standards. The session will also explore the ethical challenges unique to problem-solving court settings. Relevant statutory authority and case law will be discussed throughout as they relate to problem-solving courts.	Lecture Hall
9:30 - 9:40	Break	
9:45 - 11:15	<u>PLENARY Interactive Evidence</u> Hon. Jack Stoller, Hon. Karen Lupuloff (Ret.), Prof. Michael Hutter Using hypotheticals, this session will provide a framework for identifying and resolving evidentiary issues judges frequently encounter.	Lecture Hall
11:15 - 11:25	Break	
11:30 - 12:50	<u>PLENARY Interrupting Bias in the Courtroom</u> Hon. Paulette Brown (Ret.) The speaker will discuss how judges can recognize and interrupt bias. After this session, judges will have a better understanding of both the barriers to and best practices for creating a bias-free court environment.	Lecture Hall
12:50 - 1:05	Working Lunch <i>Pick up lunch in Omni Room and bring it to your 1:10 session.</i>	
1:10 - 2:30	Breakout Sessions (1:10 - 2:10) <u>CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL, NYC HOUSING, SUPREME CIVIL, MATRIMONIAL, SURROGATE'S Civil Practice and Procedure, Part 1 - Service of Process Fundamentals and Mock Traverse Hearing</u> Hon. Richard Montelione, Richard Murajda, Esq. This session will provide a framework and practical suggestions for efficiently addressing motions claiming service of process was not properly effected and conducting Traverse hearings.	Lecture Hall



In-Person DAY 2

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

CRIMINAL | Taking a Plea and Imposing Sentence

O-101

Hon. Debra Young, Hon. Eric Sachs

This session will provide a practical overview of the plea and sentencing process for new judges. The speakers will discuss the court's role in the plea-bargaining process, practical considerations for taking a plea, and the mechanics involved, including a step-by-step analysis of the model colloquy. They will address best practices and common pitfalls for new judges, as well as the fundamentals of sentencing, such as sentencing factors, the use of Pre-Sentence Investigation Reports, fines and fees associated with sentencing, and considerations for imposing enhanced sentences. Hypotheticals will be interspersed throughout to give new judges the opportunity to engage with the speakers, who will offer practical insight and analysis of recent legal developments. Relevant statutory authority and case law will be discussed as they pertain to the plea and sentencing process.

FAMILY | Ex Parte Applications in Family Court

O-G02

Hon. Wayne Humphrey, Hon. Keith E. Brown, Hon. Erin P. DeLabio

This session will provide practical tips for judges handling ex-parte emergency applications.

2:30 - 2:40

Break

2:45 - 4:25

Breakout Sessions

CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL, NYC HOUSING, SUPREME CIVIL, MATRIMONIAL, SURROGATE'S | Civil Practice and Procedure, Part 2 - Service and Defendant's Response, CPLR 325(d), Statute of Limitations, Motions, CPLR 3211 and 3212, Provisional Remedies, and Discovery

Lecture Hall

Hon. Tracy Catapano-Fox, Hon. John Higgitt, Prof. Burt Lipshie

The Civil Practice Law and Rules (CPLR) is central to civil practice in New York. This session will provide an overview of the CPLR provisions and civil practice issues judges frequently encounter in their daily work. The speakers will also share useful strategies and tips judges can readily use to resolve civil practice issues.

CRIMINAL | Arraignments

O-101

Hon. Keshia Espinal & Hon. Carrie Phillips

This session will address the various aspects of conducting an arraignment including which notices must be served, considerations when issuing temporary orders of protection, and the overall management of an arraignment calendar.

FAMILY | Custody & Visitation Matters in Family Court

O-G02

Hon. Anne-Marie Jolly, Hon. Stacey Romeo

In this session, the panelists will discuss custody and parental access cases and how the application of the "best interests standard" is applied to actual cases.



In-Person DAY 2

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

4:25 - 4:35	Break	
4:40 - 5:55	<u>CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL, NYC HOUSING, SUPREME CIVIL, MATRIMONIAL, SURROGATE'S Civil Practice and Procedure, Part 2 Continued- Service and Defendant's Response, CPLR 325(d), Statute of Limitations, Motions, CPLR 3211 and 3212, Provisional Remedies, and Discovery</u> Hon. Tracy Cattapano-Fox, Hon. John Higgitt, Prof. Burt Lipshie	Lecture Hall
6:00 - 7:15	Dinner	Tudor Room



In-Person DAY 3

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast	Omni Room
8:30 - 10:00	<u>PLENARY Immigration Basics, Impacts & Enforcement in New York Courts</u> Hon. Adam Perlmutter (Moderator), Hon. Scott Dunn, Mary Kramer, Esq., Beth A. T. Krause, Esq., David Satnarine, Esq. This session will provide New York State judges with a concise, practical overview of how immigration issues directly intersect with their courtrooms, affecting parties, witnesses, victims, families, and courthouse operations. By framing immigration in its broader context and explaining core concepts relevant to state court proceedings, the session helps judges understand when and how immigration status may impact cases. In alignment with the Rules of Judicial Conduct, this session also identifies appropriate policies and practices that promote fairness while remaining within the limits of the judicial role.	Lecture Hall
10:00 - 10:10	Break	
10:15 - 11:15	<i>Breakout Sessions</i> <u>CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL, NYC HOUSING, SUPREME CIVIL, SURROGATE'S Default Judgments</u> Hon. Cenceria P. Edwards, Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas The speakers will provide a step-by-step framework and practical tips for granting default judgments and addressing applications to vacate default judgments. <u>CRIMINAL Discovery and Speedy Trial</u> Hon. Dineen Riviezzo, Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres CPL Article 245 governs the sharing of evidence between the prosecution and defense in a criminal case. During this session, judges will discuss the application of Article 245 including the time frames with which both sides must comply, the statutory requirement for automatic discovery and the presumption of openness. <u>FAMILY Balancing Justice & Efficiency: Case Management for Family Court Judges</u> Hon. Caren Loguercio, Hon. Anne-Marie Jolly, Hon. Keith Kibler Given the high volume of family court cases, this session will provide practical tips for fair and efficient case management. <u>MATRIMONIAL Overview of Matrimonial Matters</u> Hon. Jefferey S. Sunshine The Hon. Jeffrey Sunshine, Statewide Coordinating Judge for Matrimonial Matters, will provide an overview of divorce proceedings including applicable rules and statutes, pleadings, motions and orders, case management techniques and more.	Lecture Hall O-101 O-G02 O-G01



In-Person DAY 3

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

11:15 - 11:25 **Break**

11:30 - 12:30 **Breakout Sessions**

CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL, NYC HOUSING, SUPREME CIVIL, SURROGATE'S | Conferencing and Settling Cases

Lecture Hall

Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas, Hon. Llinét M. Rosado

This session will provide techniques judges can readily use to move cases toward resolution. Following an examination of the various approaches and strategies used for negotiating and fostering settlement, the judges will participate in a mock settlement conference.

CRIMINAL | Discovery and Speedy Trial Continued

O-101

Hon. Dineen Riviezzo, Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres

FAMILY | First Do No Harm: Trauma Informed Judicial Decision Making

O-G02

Hon. Erin DeLabio, Hon. Caren Loguercio, Aimee L. Neri, LMSW

Trauma Informed Judicial Decision Making provides a framework for judicial practice using the evidence based approaches of Solution Focused language and Trauma Informed practices. The models are complimentary and promote the goals of improving outcomes, enforcing accountability and reducing recidivism rates in Family Court while allowing jurists to maintain ethical standards of practice and role specific responsibilities. This seminar will provide a brief foundation of how trauma impacts cognitive functioning and behavior; share an overview of the Trauma Informed Care and Solution Focused Strategies Models, highlight the necessity of judicial wellness and provide concrete strategies to put into practice immediately. Trauma Informed practices will never hurt AND it can always help.

MATRIMONIAL | Custody and Parental Access in Matrimonial Matters

O-G01

Hon. Victor Grossman, Rosalia Baiamonte, Esq., Elena Karabatos, Esq.

In this session, judges will focus on the application of the "best interests standard" to cases involving questions of custody and parental access.

12:30 - 1:25 **Lunch**

Omni Room

1:30 - 2:30 **Breakout Sessions**

CITY, DISTRICT, FAMILY, NYC CIVIL, NYC HOUSING, SUPREME CIVIL, SURROGATE'S | The ADR Initiative

Lecture Hall

Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez, Hon. Joseph E. Lamendola, Lisa M. Courtney, Esq.

This session will provide an overview of the forms of ADR in New York State trial courts and Court-Connected ADR programs.



In-Person DAY 3

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

CRIMINAL | Pre-trial Motions and Hearings

O-101

Hon. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick, Hon. Frances Wang

This presentation will cover the substantive and procedural requirements for suppression and other common pre-trial hearings. Judges will leave this session with a framework for conducting these hearings and issuing the court's decision on the issues raised.

MATRIMONIAL | The Affidavit of Net Worth

O-G01

Hon. Wanda Negron, Hon. Michael Katz

This session will cover the role affidavits of net worth play in divorce proceedings. In addition to the form itself, the panel will discuss self-represented litigants as well as cases that are financially straightforward and those that have more complex assets at issue.

2:30 - 2:40

Break

2:45 - 4:25

Breakout Sessions

CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL | Consumer Debt and Contract Claims: Substantive Law and Motion Practice

Omni Room

Hon. Carl Falotico, Hon. Robert Helbock

Focusing on consumer debt and contract claims, this session will provide judges a framework and practical suggestions for efficiently resolving pre-answer motions to dismiss (CPLR 3211) and summary judgment motions (CPLR 3212).

CRIMINAL | Pre-trial Motions and Hearings Continued

O-101

Hon. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick, Hon. Frances Wang

FAMILY | Juvenile Delinquency and PINS: A Practical Guide for New Judges

O-G02

Hon. Richard Rivera, Hon. Peter Passidomo

Individuals 17 and younger who are accused of committing acts that would constitute crimes if they were adults are designated as juvenile delinquents. In this session, judges explore the stages of a juvenile delinquency proceeding and will discuss characteristic youth behaviors, interventions and processes associated with Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) petitions.

NYC HOUSING | Selected NYC Housing Court Topics:

JI-205

(1) Illegal Lock-Out Proceedings

(2) Non-Eviction Cases: Housing Part and Harassment Actions

(1) Hon. Clifton A. Nembhard, Hon. Enedina P. Sanchez

(2) Hon. Daniele Chinae, Hon. Shorab Ibrahim

This session will cover two discrete NYC Housing Court topics. The first part of the session will provide an analytical framework for managing illegal lock-out proceedings and determining whether/when restoration to possession is appropriate. The second part of the session will provide a framework for addressing Housing Part (HP) actions, e.g., tenant-initiated actions, and harassment actions.



In-Person DAY 3

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

MATRIMONIAL | What I Wish I Had Known

JI-305

Hon. Jeffrey Sunshine, Hon. Jeffrey Goodstein, Hon. Cheryl Joseph,
Hon. Victor Grossman, Hon. Mary Slisz, Hon. John B. Gallagher

The supervising matrimonial judges from around state draw on their years of experience presiding over cases and working with new judges to address common issues and concerns that arise during the first year of presiding over matrimonial matters.

SUPREME CIVIL | Serious Injury Threshold

Lecture Hall

Hon. Laura Jordan, Hon. Thomas Whelan, Prof. Michael Hutter

This session will provide an overview of the important considerations regarding the threshold requirement of “serious injury” under Insurance Law §§ 5104(a) and 5102(d) as well as a framework for addressing summary judgment motions in this context. In addition to working through motion papers of an actual case, the judges will learn strategies for conducting settlement conferences in these cases.

SUPREME CIVIL, SURROGATE’S | Guardianships (MHL Art. 81 vs. SCPA Art. 17-A) & Supported Decision-Making

O-G01

Hon. David H. Guy, Hon. Peter J. Kelly

In this session, the speakers will explore the legal and ethical considerations involved in Article 81 and SCPA 17-A guardianship proceedings, and examine how Supported Decision-Making (SDM) can be used to address the needs and interests of litigants with developmental disabilities. SDM serves as an alternative to guardianship by providing individuals with developmental disabilities tailored supports and services that help them make their own decisions.

4:25 - 4:35

Break

4:40 - 5:55

PLENARY | Through their Eyes: Insights from Those Who Experienced the Juvenile Justice System

Lecture Hall

Cheryl Wilkins, Tiffany Vulcain, Denina Roman

This session offers a candid look into the realities young people face when navigating courts, detention, and reentry. Session attendees will hear directly from individuals with lived experience, gaining a deeper understanding of the system’s impact and the changes they believe are needed. This session invites honest dialogue, reflection, and a more human-centered approach to youth justice.

6:00 - 7:15

Dinner

Tudor Room



In-Person DAY 4

Thursday, January 8, 2026

7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast	Omni Room
8:30 - 10:00	<u>PLENARY Judicial Understanding of Wrongful Convictions and Their Impacts</u> Hon. Adam D. Perlmutter (Moderator), Hon. Nina Morrison, Bryce Benjet, Esq., Karen Newirth, Esq., Derrick Hamilton, Renay Lynch This panel discussion will feature an overview of wrongful convictions in the United States and New York, factors leading to wrongful convictions, the role of Conviction Integrity Units, and other topics. The discussion will focus particularly on the homicide exonerations of Renay Lynch and Derrick Hamilton, both of whom will appear as panelists.	Lecture Hall
10:00 - 10:10	Break	
10:15 - 11:45	<i>Breakout Sessions</i>	
	<u>CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL Small Claims Proceedings</u> Hon. Gerald Lebovits This session will provide an overview of the substantive and procedural law applicable to Small Claims Court and practical guidance for presiding over Small Claims cases.	O-G01
	<u>CRIMINAL Facial Sufficiency</u> Hon. Efrain Alvarado (Ret.), Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres Judges will define the different types of accusatory instruments, outline the technical requirements for an instrument to be legally sufficient under the Criminal Procedure Law, and develop a methodology for analyzing motions to dismiss for facial insufficiency.	O-101
	<u>FAMILY FCA Articles 4 & 5 Fundamentals: Core Concepts in Support and Paternity</u> Hon. Rosa M. Astuto, Hon. Gregory Gliedman, Hon. Peter J. Passidomo This session will cover child support calculations under CSSA, legal standards governing modifications, COLA adjustments, enforcement and willfulness hearings. The session will also provide a basic overview of paternity proceedings and defenses.	O-G02
	<u>MATRIMONIAL Maintenance and Child Support in Divorce Cases</u> Hon. Christine Acker, Hon. Keri Fiore This session will cover both the calculation, modification, and enforcement of child support, as well as the laws that govern spousal maintenance.	JI-305
	<u>NYC HOUSING NYC Housing Court Motions</u> Hon. Diane E. Lutwak, Hon. Julie Poley This session will provide new judges a framework and practical suggestions for efficiently resolving motions frequently seen in New York City Housing Court.	JI-205



In-Person DAY 4

Thursday, January 8, 2026

SUPREME CIVIL | Construction Accident Litigation: Labor Law §§ 200, 240(1) and 241(6)

Lecture Hall

Hon. Devin Cohen, Bryce Moses, Esq., Karen Ondrovic, Esq.

The speakers will provide an overview of Labor Law §§ 240(1) and 241(6), and will also provide a framework for presiding over these cases, including deciding motions.

11:45 - 11:55 Break

12:00 - 1:00 Breakout Sessions

CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL | Commercial Landlord-Tenant Law

O-G01

Hon. Gerald Lebovits

This session will provide a primer on commercial landlord-tenant litigation in New York State. The speaker will identify and address a range of pertinent topics, e.g., complex commercial lease provisions, judges frequently encounter when presiding over commercial landlord-tenant matters.

CRIMINAL | Search Warrants

O-101

Hon. Teresa Corrigan, Hon. Giyang An

This session will address the requirements for search warrant applications, including “no knock” and nighttime warrants, questioning confidential informants, the “staleness” doctrine and searches of cell phones and other devices.

FAMILY & MATRIMONIAL | Effectively Addressing Education-Related Concerns in Orders and Agreements

O-G02

Hon. Jeffrey Goodstein (Moderator), Hon. Cheryl Joseph, Hon. Caren Loguercio, Daniel Morton Bentley, Esq., Diane Inbody, Esq., Steven Goodstadt, Esq., Chrystal O'Connor, Esq.

Judges will examine how custody determinations can impact education-related decision-making for the parties' shared children. Topics will include: the practical effect of residential custody for school enrollment; managing pickups and drop-offs; rights and responsibilities relating to special education matters; identifying emergency contacts and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

NYC HOUSING | Housing Court Issues Arising from CPLR Rule 409

JI-205

Hon. John S. Lansden, Hon. Diane E. Lutwak

In this session, the speakers will review the language of CPLR Rule 409 and explore how it fits into the CPLR/RPAPL framework governing summary eviction proceedings. The speakers will then explore questions raised by CPLR Rule 409 such as how it relates to disclosure under CPLR 408, how it compares to a CPLR 3212 motion for summary judgment, when is it appropriate to exercise discretion under CPLR Rule 409, and more.

SUPREME CIVIL | Foreclosure Proceedings

Lecture Hall

Hon. Tracy Catapano-Fox, Hon. Erin Noelle Guven, Stephen J. Helfont, Esq.

This session will provide an overview of the foreclosure process in New York and an analytical framework for addressing and deciding motions for summary judgment in foreclosure cases.



In-Person DAY 4

Thursday, January 8, 2026

1:00 - 1:55

Lunch

2:00 - 3:30

Breakout Sessions

**CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL | Infant Compromise Proceedings
in Civil Court: What to Know and Expect**

O-G01

Hon. Matthew Parker-Raso

This session will provide an analytical framework for managing an infant's compromise proceeding. The speaker will discuss: (1) the applicable rules and statutes, (2) reviewing the petition (or motion if the matter is pending), including the documents required to be submitted in this proceeding, (3) holding the hearing, and (4) post-hearing and order applications for the release of funds.

**CRIMINAL | Wrongful Conviction and the Criminal Legal System:
An Exoneree's Perspective for New Criminal Judges**

O-101

Hon. Adam Perlmutter, Bryce Benjet, Esq., Karen A. Newirth, Esq., Renay Lynch

This session will feature a deep dive into Renay Lynch's wrongful conviction for the 1995 murder of her former landlord. The Honorable Adam Perlmutter, will guide Ms. Lynch and Karen Newirth, her post-exoneration attorney, through a detailed examination of Ms. Lynch's case from her first learning about her landlord's murder, through the case investigation, and Ms. Lynch's arrest, prosecution, and eventual freedom in 2024.

**FAMILY | Adjudicating Abuse & Neglect:
Statutory Framework & Judicial Application**

O-G02

Hon. Alicea Elloras-Ally, Hon. Keri Savona

The purpose of Article 10 of the Family Court Act is to provide due process for determining when a court can intervene to safeguard the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of children. Judges will outline the steps in Article 10 proceedings from initial filing of the petition through disposition. Judges will also discuss the significant impact these matters can have on the lives of the families involved.

MATRIMONIAL | Protecting the Record for Appellate Review

JI-305

Hon. Linda Christopher, Hon. Ellen Gesmer

In this session, judges will analyze the function of "the record" as it relates to appellate review, identify mistakes commonly made by trial judges, and discuss suggestions for improving efficiency and making reversal less likely.

NYC HOUSING | NYC Housing Court Scenarios

JI-205

Hon. Miriam Breier, Hon. John S. Lansden

Using factual scenarios, this session will provide an overview of the legal and practical issues facing NYC Housing Court judges.



In-Person DAY 4

Thursday, January 8, 2026

SUPREME CIVIL | Foreclosure Proceedings Continued

Lecture Hall

Hon. Tracy Catapano-Fox, Hon. Erin Noelle Guven, Stephen J. Helfont, Esq.

SURROGATE'S | The Surrogate's Court Program

Ex. Conf. Rm.

Hon. David H. Guy, Hon. Peter J. Kelly, Hon. Acea Mosey

This session will provide an overview of the role of the Surrogate, including the relationship between the court and the Public Administrator, and the myriad legal and practical issues that arise in Surrogate's Court.

3:30 - 3:40

Break

3:45 - 5:00

Breakout Sessions

CITY, DISTRICT, FAMILY, NYC CIVIL, NYC HOUSING, SUPREME CIVIL | Decision Writing

Lecture Hall

Hon. Mark Dillon

Clear and concise judicial decisions and opinions are important for litigants, your colleagues, and the public. Litigants need to understand how judges apply the law to the facts of their case. Colleagues, guided by the doctrine of stare decisis, rely on a clear record of your legal reasoning to determine whether to follow it. The public gains confidence in the judicial system when judges clearly explain the reasoning behind their decisions. Accordingly, this session aims to provide an analytical framework and practical guidance for clear, concise, and credible decision writing.

CRIMINAL | Managing DWI and Other VTL

O-101

Hon. Joseph McCormack, Hon. Jessica Segal

In this session, the speaker will cover all aspects of presiding over DUI and DWI cases from arraignment through disposition.

SURROGATE'S | The Surrogate's Court Program Continued

Ex. Conf. Rm.

Hon. David H. Guy, Hon. Peter J. Kelly, Hon. Acea Mosey

5:15 - 7:00

Dinner

Tudor Room



In-Person DAY 5

Friday, January 9, 2026

7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast	Omni Room
8:30 - 10:00	<u>PLENARY Recognizing and Dealing with Cases Involving Claims of Domestic Violence</u> Prof. Melissa L. Breger, Prof. Deseriee Kennedy, Jill M. Zuccardy The discussion of domestic violence in this session is intended to educate judges about the dynamics of abuse in intimate partner relationships. Judges will examine the significance of these principles to cases involving claims of domestic violence.	Lecture Hall
10:00 - 10:10	Break	
10:15 - 11:30	<i>Breakout Sessions</i> <u>CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL, SUPREME CIVIL, MATRIMONIAL, SURROGATE'S Fiduciary Appointments</u> Meredith Jones, Esq., Valerie Avinger This session will provide an overview of the fiduciary appointment process as well as judges' duties and obligations under Parts 36 and 26 of the Rules of the Chief Judge. The speakers will emphasize the great care a judge must take in making a fiduciary appointment. <u>CRIMINAL Domestic Violence Orders of Protection in Criminal Cases</u> Hon. Audrey Stone, Prof. Melissa L. Breger, Prof. Deseriee Kennedy In this session, judges will examine and discuss issues related to orders of protection and domestic violence in the context of criminal cases. <u>FAMILY, MATRIMONIAL Domestic Violence Considerations for Family Court and Matrimonial Judges</u> Hon. Mary Carney, Hon. Andrew Crecca, Jill Zuccardy, Esq. This session will provide an overview of FCA Article 8, including orders of protection, burden of proof, the judicial guide to risk and lethality factors, and will discuss the impact of domestic violence on children among other issues.	O-G01 O-101 O-G02
11:30 - 11:40	Break	



In-Person DAY 5

Friday, January 9, 2026

11:45 - 1:00

Breakout Sessions

CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL, SUPREME CIVIL, SURROGATE'S | Presiding Over Civil Trials

Lecture Hall

Hon. L. Austin D'Souza, Hon. Gregory Gilbert,

Hon. Ramón E. Rivera, Karen Ondrovic, Esq., Anthony Pirrotti, Jr., Esq.

This session will provide an overview of key stages of a civil trial and issues that may arise during each of those stages including, pre-trial matters, jury selection, motions in limine, managing evidence, charge conferences, verdict sheets, and protecting the record.

CITY, DISTRICT, NYC HOUSING | Managing Landlord-Tenant Trials

O-G01

Hon. Maija Dixon, Hon. Kisha L. Miller, Hon. Julie Poley,

Hon. Remy Smith, Hon. Jack Stoller

This interactive session will provide a framework for presiding over landlord-tenant trials. Tips and best practices for managing all aspects of the trial will be discussed throughout the session.

CRIMINAL | Trial Practice

O-102

Hon. Marisol Martinez-Alonso, Hon. Ann Thompson, Hon. Michael Yavinsky

During this session judges will discuss topics including managing jury selection, instruction and deliberation; taking evidence and testimony; and ensuring fair and efficient trials that are free from reversible error. This session judges will discuss topics including managing jury selection, instruction and deliberation; taking evidence and testimony; and ensuring fair and efficient trials that are free from reversible error.

FAMILY, MATRIMONIAL | Role of the AFC in Family and Matrimonial Courts

O-G02

Hon. Jacqueline Deane (Moderator), Sarah Tirgary,

John Kraigenow, Linda J. Kostin, Wendy Clafee

This session will present an overview of the role of the AFC in family and matrimonial court cases from the perspective of panel and agency AFCs. Topics include the responsibilities of an AFC, timing of the appointment, payment of the attorney, Rule 7.2 as well as in camera/Lincoln hearings. The format will be conversational, and questions or comments are encouraged.

1:00 - 1:15

Working Lunch

Omni Room

Pick up lunch in Omni Room and bring it to your 1:15 session.

1:15 - 2:15

Breakout Sessions

CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL, SUPREME CIVIL, SURROGATE'S | Presiding Over Civil Trials Continued

Lecture Hall

Hon. L. Austin D'Souza, Hon. Gregory Gilbert,

Hon. Ramón E. Rivera, Karen Ondrovic, Esq., Anthony Pirrotti, Jr., Esq.



In-Person DAY 5

Friday, January 9, 2026

**CITY, DISTRICT, NYC HOUSING | Managing
Landlord-Tenant Trials Continued**

O-G01

Hon. Maija Dixon, Hon. Kisha L. Miller, Hon. Julie Poley,
Hon. Remy Smith, Hon. Jack Stoller

CRIMINAL | Trial Practice Continued

O-101

Hon. Marisol Martinez-Alonso, Hon. Ann Thompson, Hon. Michael Yavinsky

**FAMILY | Family Court and Immigration Relief:
Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), U-Visas, and other Key Issues**

O-G02

Hon. Alison Hamanjian, Terry Lawson, Esq.

This session will provide an overview of SIJS law and provide practical tips
for family court judges handling these cases.

MATRIMONIAL | Equitable Distribution

JI-305

Hon. Kimberly O'Connor, Lee Rosenberg Esq., Michelle L. Haskin Esq.

This session will cover the concepts, rules and cases governing the division of marital property.

2:15 - 2:25

Break

2:30 - 3:30

Breakout Sessions

**CITY, DISTRICT, NYC CIVIL, SUPREME CIVIL,
SURROGATE'S | Presiding Over Civil Trials Continued**

Lecture Hall

Hon. L. Austin D'Souza, Hon. Gregory Gilbert,
Hon. Ramón E. Rivera, Anthony Pirrotti, Jr., Esq.

**CITY, DISTRICT, NYC HOUSING | Managing
Landlord-Tenant Trials Continued**

O-G01

Hon. Maija Dixon, Hon. Kisha L. Miller, Hon. Julie Poley,
Hon. Remy Smith, Hon. Jack Stoller

CRIMINAL | Case Management Strategies

O-101

Hon. Ann Thompson, Micki Hendricks, Esq., Stephen Guckemus

This session, which is geared to new criminal judges, will explore practical techniques for
efficiently managing caseloads, prioritizing matters, and ensuring timely, fair case resolution.
Attendees will gain actionable strategies to streamline courtroom procedures and enhance decision-making.



VIRTUAL SEMINAR GUIDE

Monday through Wednesday, January 12 - 14, 2026

Please go to the seminar webpage at:

<http://inside-ucs.org/ji/>

(access from a UCS internal computer or vpn only)

Virtual programs will be LIVE via TEAMS.

Links to the LIVE TEAMS sessions will be provided on the seminar webpage.

- **Plan to join the meeting a few minutes early.**
- **After clicking on the appropriate session link, you will enter the lobby.**
- **You will be granted access to the session as soon as the speaker(s) is/are ready to begin.**
- **Make sure to mute your cell phone and close any other apps on your computer/laptop that might send distracting notifications.**
- **Join the meeting with your microphone muted.**
- **Be mindful of the fact that our faculty has spent time and energy to prepare and present to you so please give them the courtesy of keeping your cameras on during each session.**
- **Use the Raise Your Hand function to ask or respond to questions.**

If you experience any technical issues, please contact your local IT or the Judicial Institute at NYSJI@nycourts.gov.



Virtual DAY 1

Monday, January 12, 2026

9:15 - 10:10

PLENARY | History, Overview and Structure of the Court System

Hon. Richard A. Dollinger (Ret.)

In this session, the speaker will provide an overview of New York's court system from its establishment to how it has evolved over the years. The speaker will also discuss how the state's numerous courts and court procedures fit within the system and share his views on the future of New York's courts.

10:10 - 10:15

Break

10:20 - 11:20

PLENARY | The Judge's Role as Supervisor and Manager

Kay-Ann Porter Campbell, Esq., Christy Bass

The Court System's Inspector General and Human Resources Director will discuss the rules, regulations, and policies concerning a judge's personal conduct as well as a judge's responsibilities regarding complaints of bias, discrimination, and harassment by staff and others.

11:20 - 11:25

Break

11:30 - 12:30

PLENARY | Practical Strategies for Working with Unrepresented Litigants

Hon. Edwina G. Richardson

The Court System's Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives will provide judges with practical tools and strategies for effectively interacting with unrepresented litigants to promote access to justice and efficient court proceedings. Attendees will gain insights into techniques and steps they can take to ensure fairness, clarity, and professionalism in the courtroom.

12:30 - 1:05

Lunch

1:10 - 2:10

PLENARY | Disability Accommodations and the ADA

**Hon. Sergio Jimenez, Hon. Robert Pipia, Hon. Carol Sharpe,
James F. Tardy, Esq., Amy M. Pontillo, Esq.**

Requests for disability accommodations, whether from lawyers or litigants, can be challenging. In this session, the speakers will discuss requests for disability accommodations under the ADA and the procedure judges should follow when presented with these requests.

2:10 - 2:15

Break

2:20 - 3:50

PLENARY | The Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics

Hon. Debra Givens, Hon. Lillian Wan, Laura L. Smith, Esq.

The Advisory Committee was formed to help New York State's judges and justices adhere to the Rules Governing Judicial Conduct. The speakers will discuss the standards set forth in these Rules, the authority of the Committee, and the presumption afforded to a judge that relies on a formal advisory opinion issued by the Committee.

3:50 - 3:55

Break

4:00 - 5:00

PLENARY | Language Access and Working with Court Interpreters

Ann Ryan

This session will address how to access language services for litigants who need the assistance of an interpreter. By participating in exercises based on real-world scenarios, judges will have an opportunity to work through interpreter-related issues that may arise in the courtroom.



Virtual DAY 2

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

9:10 - 10:20

PLENARY | Judicial Security

Chief Michael Magliano, Major Kevin Scherer, Captain Charles Hollon

This session will provide information to assist in the safety and security needs of judges. Among other topics, the speakers will discuss the Judicial Security Guidelines, judicial threats and inappropriate communications, judicial protection, and sovereign citizens.

10:20 - 10:25

Break

10:30 - 11:30

PLENARY | The Commission on Judicial Conduct

Robert H. Tembeckjian, Esq.

The Commission's objective is to enforce high standards of conduct for judges. The speaker will provide an overview of the Commission, its procedures, common examples of judicial misconduct, and the responsibilities of a judge that becomes the subject of a formal complaint.

11:30 - 11:35

Break

11:40 - 1:10

PLENARY | Artificial Intelligence ("AI") and Judicial Ethics - Some Considerations for New Judges

Hon. Vito DeStefano, Hon. Patria Frias-Colón,

Rosemary Garland-Scott, Esq., Hon. Francis Ricigliano

This session presented jointly by the Statewide Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics will explore some of the ethical considerations involved in the use of AI by attorneys and by judges. One of a judge's important functions is to enforce the ethics of the attorneys who appear before them. This requires judges to understand the Rules Governing the Conduct of Judges as well as the Rules of Professional Conduct, neither of which specifically addresses the use of AI. The speakers, who are members of both advisory committees, will explore judicial and attorney ethics rules, cases and opinions pertinent to AI, and the misuse of AI.

1:10 - 1:45

Lunch

1:50 - 2:20

PLENARY | Writing Opinions for Publication: The Role of the State Law Reporting Bureau

Thomas J.K. Smth

The State Reporter of New York will introduce and illustrate the IFRAC system for writing judicial opinions efficiently and concisely and explain how the New York State Law Reporting Bureau edits and publishes opinions.

2:20 - 2:25

Break

2:30 - 3:00

PLENARY | The Role of OCA's Judicial Wellness Coordinator

Daniel T. Lukasik, Esq., Hon. Patrick O'Sullivan

Developing methods for working through challenges, including stress or anxiety, is important for maintaining wellness and well-being on and off the bench. The Court System's Judicial Wellness Coordinator will provide an overview of his role and resources available to help judges identify and manage stress, develop coping strategies, and build resiliency.



Virtual DAY 2

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

3:00 - 3:05

Break

3:10 - 3:30

PLENARY | Remarks from OCA's Counsel

David Nocenti, Esq.

This session will provide judges an introduction to Counsel's Office and an overview of that office's broad range of responsibilities.



Virtual DAY 3

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

9:10 - 10:50

CITY, DISTRICT, NYC HOUSING | Landlord-Tenant Law and Practice

Hon. Stephen L. Ukeiley

This session will provide an overview of the substantive and procedural law applicable to summary proceedings in landlord-tenant cases. The speaker will discuss practical ways to address issues that arise during appearances, settlement conferences, hearings, and trials.

SURROGATE'S | Overview of Wills, Trusts, and Future Interests

Prof. William LaPiana

This session will provide an overview of the law governing the disposition of property under state statutes of succession and by will. This session will also examine the theory and practice of trust law, as well as possessory and future interests.

FAMILY AND MATRIMONIAL | Maximizing the Use of Mental Health Expert Services (9:10 - 10:10)

Jill M. Ziembiec, Peter Manzo, Melissa Broadwell-Vargas

Coordinators from the First, Second and Fourth Departments who oversee the utilization of mental health experts for AFCs will present and review the criteria of the program, including expectations, guidelines and payment requirements established by each Appellate Division. This session will provide jurists with a better understanding of how courts can appropriately utilize mental health experts to support informed decision-making and promote meaningful outcomes in family court and matrimonial matters.

10:50 - 10:55 **Break**

11:00 - 12:15 **PLENARY | Trauma and Well-Being Among Judges**

Daniel T. Lukasik, Esq. (Moderator), Hon. Suzanne Adams, Dawn D'Amico, Ph.D.

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.

12:15 - 12:45 **Lunch**

12:50 - 1:50 **PLENARY | Technology Overview**

Christine Sisario

The Court System's Director of Technology will discuss the technological tools available to assist judges and their staff in performance of their duties.

1:50 - 1:55 **Break**



Virtual DAY 3

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

2:00 - 3:00

PLENARY | Judicial Resources

Hon. William C. Donnino (Ret.)

This session will provide an overview of two valuable Unified Court System resources that are available to the bench and bar: (1) the Guide to New York Evidence; and (2) the Criminal Jury Instructions and Model Colloquies.

3:00 - 3:05

Break

2:30 - 3:00

PLENARY | Judicial Benefits

Lisa Dack, Cara G. Sorensen

This session will provide an overview of the judicial benefits offered by the Unified Court System.



BIOGRAPHIES

UCS LEADERSHIP TEAM

JUDICIAL INSTITUTE TEAM



UCS Leadership Team



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

The Honorable Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Judge of the State of New York and the New York State Court of Appeals, was born in Pomona, California, and grew up in Berkeley, California. He received his A.B. degree from Harvard College in 1981, and his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1984. He was admitted to the bar of the State of California in 1985, and the bar of the State of New York in 1987.

From 1984 to 1986, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable James R. Browning, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, based in San Francisco, California. In 1986, he joined the firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York City as an associate, and was elected to partnership there in 1991, in which position he continued until February 2017. His practice encompassed a wide variety of matters, including antitrust, intellectual property, securities and common-law fraud, contract, labor and employment, civil rights and first amendment issues.

On January 15, 2017, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo nominated Judge Wilson to serve as an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, and the New York State Senate confirmed his nomination on February 6, 2017. On April 10, 2023, Governor Kathy Hochul nominated Judge Wilson to serve as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York. The New York State Senate confirmed his nomination on April 18, 2023.

While in private practice, Judge Wilson served on the boards of several charitable and not-for-profit organizations and handled numerous pro bono matters.



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

The Hon. Joseph A. Zayas was appointed by Chief Judge Rowan Wilson in May 2023 as the Chief Administrative Judge of the New York State Unified Court System, the highest-ranking administrative position within the New York State Judiciary. Judge Zayas oversees the day-to-day administration and operation of the statewide court system, including its \$3 billion budget, 3,330 state and local judges and over 16,500 non-judicial employees in over 300 locations across the state.

Judge Zayas was previously appointed by New York's Governor as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department – an intermediate appellate court which has jurisdiction over portions of New York City and the suburbs surrounding New York City. He previously served as the Administrative Judge for Supreme Court in Queens County, the second most populous county in the State.

Judge Zayas was elected as a Justice of the Supreme Court in Queens County in 2016, appointed as a Judge of the Court of Claims by New York's Governor in 2012, and originally appointed as a Judge of the Criminal Court of New York City by New York City's Mayor in 2003. As a trial judge and an administrative judge of a trial court, Judge Zayas presided over jury trials in criminal cases and served as the Presiding Judge in the county's Youth Court, Drug Treatment Court, and Mental Health Treatment Court. Throughout his judicial career, Judge Zayas has published numerous opinions in criminal, civil and family cases, lectured extensively on various areas of the law and was an active member and officer of the Latino Judges Association.

Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Zayas served as a law clerk to the Hon. Rolando T. Acosta in Civil and Supreme Court and at the Harlem Community Justice Center, a problem-solving court serving the communities of East and Central Harlem. Prior to working with Justice Acosta, Judge Zayas served as an attorney with The Legal Aid Society's Capital Defense Unit, Criminal Appeals Bureau and Criminal Trial Division.

Judge Zayas is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law, and Fordham University. He attended public schools in New York City and was raised in the Frederick Douglas Housing Projects.



UCS Leadership Team



Hon. Norman St. George,

First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York

Hon. Norman St. George was appointed as First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, the second-highest ranking administration position within the New York State Judiciary, effective May 19, 2023. The appointment was made by Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas, with the consultation and approval of Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and in consultation with the Presiding Justices of the Appellate Divisions. In this capacity and on behalf of the Chief Administrative Judge, Judge St. George oversees all trial-level courts throughout the State, as well as all departments and operations within the Office of Court Administration. He also directly supervises the courts in the Tenth Judicial District, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Immediately prior to his current position, Judge St. George served as the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside of New York City. In that role, he worked with local Administrative Judges in overseeing implementation of the court system's programs and initiatives and in optimizing allocation of personnel and other court resources to meet the needs and goals of the courts. Additionally, he was responsible for oversight of New York's Town and Village Courts.

Judge St. George is an elected Justice of the Supreme Court for the 10th Judicial Department. Judge St. George served as the District Administrative Judge for all courts in Nassau County from 2019 through August of 2021. In that capacity, Judge St. George oversaw the Supreme Court, County Court, Family Court, Surrogate Court, District Court, and all City and Village Courts. From 2013 through 2018, Judge St. George served as the Supervising Judge of the Nassau County District Court. The Nassau County District Court is comprised of both criminal and civil courts and it is one of the busiest courts in New York State, handling over one hundred thousand criminal and civil cases each year.

Judge St. George served as an elected Nassau County Court Judge and an Acting Supreme Court Justice from 2008 to 2018. In 2018, Judge St. George established Nassau County's Youth Part under New York State's Raise the Age Law. While presiding over the Youth Part, Judge St. George published cases of first impression interpreting the Raise the Age Law. As an Acting Supreme Court Justice, Judge St. George presided over serious felony criminal cases, commercial cases, medical malpractice cases, and oversaw the Integrated Domestic Violence Court, the Domestic Violence Court and the Sex Offense Court.

Judge St. George served as an elected District Court Judge from 2004 to 2008. In addition to presiding over criminal and civil cases, Judge St. George was charged with the responsibility of establishing Nassau County's first misdemeanor Domestic Violence Court. Judge St. George also established and presided over a Driving While Intoxicated Court. Judge St. George lectures at the Judicial Institute and at various Bar Associations on criminal and civil trial practice.

Prior to ascending to the bench, Judge St. George practiced law for sixteen years as a federal and state trial attorney. After graduating from Hofstra Law School, he worked as a Tax Attorney with Arthur Anderson and Company. He then began his litigation training at the Garden City law firm of Reisch, Simoni, Bythewood & Gleason. Judge St. George handled an extensive caseload of criminal and civil cases, including major Federal criminal and civil RICO actions.

Thereafter, Judge St. George served as an Assistant District Attorney for the County of Nassau under District Attorney Denis Dillon. He served in the District Court Bureau, Felony Screening Bureau, Grand Jury Bureau and County Court Bureau. Judge St. George left the Nassau County District Attorney's Office to become a partner in the Wall Street firm of Jackson, Brown, Powell and St. George, LLP. In addition to being responsible for all the firm's civil litigation, Judge St. George served as the managing partner. Judge St. George next established his own law firm with offices in Mineola and Manhattan. Judge St. George successfully tried numerous federal and state criminal cases, federal copyright infringement cases, commercial litigation cases, and personal injury cases. Two of Judge St. George's trial verdicts were reported by the Jury Verdict Reporter. While a practicing attorney, Judge St. George frequently appeared on Court Television as a trial commentator.



UCS Leadership Team



Hon. Edwina G. Richardson, *Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives*

Hon. Edwina G. Richardson leads the UCS's efforts to promote meaningful access to justice in New York State courts for people of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities. Judge Richardson and the Office for Justice Initiatives (OJI) administer a wide variety of programs, volunteer opportunities and resources in service of this mission. Judge Richardson also leads UCS' problem solving and accountability courts, and initiatives to advance equal justice in the courts. Judge Richardson previously served as Administrative Judge of all New York City Family Courts and is currently an active Judge of the Court of Claims.



Hon. James P. Murphy, *Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside NYC*

Judge Murphy is the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the Courts Outside New York City responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations and allocating and assigning judicial and non-judicial personnel of the trial courts of the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Judicial Districts and the Court of Claims. He is also responsible for overseeing the local Town and Village Courts in those Districts. Justice Murphy was elected to the Supreme Court in the Fifth Judicial District in 2004 and reelected in 2018. He previously served as Administrative Judge of the Fifth Judicial District. Justice Murphy is a graduate of Bishop Ludden High School in Syracuse, New York, Saint Lawrence University, and Syracuse University College of Law.



Hon. Adam Silvera, *Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Within NYC*

Hon. Adam Silvera is the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts. Prior to this, he served as Administrative Judge for the NY County Supreme Court - Civil Term. Elected to the NYC Civil Court in 2014, he initially served in Family Court in Kings County and later presided over civil and consumer credit matters in both Kings and NY Counties. He later became an Acting Supreme Court Justice, handling Family Court and matrimonial cases. He was elected to the Supreme Court-Civil Term, served on the Appellate Term, First Department, and was Administrative Judge of the New York County Supreme Court's Civil Term. Justice Silvera holds a J.D. from Brooklyn Law.



Hon. Jeffrey S. Sunshine, *Statewide Coordinating Judge for Matrimonial Matters*

Hon. Jeffrey S. Sunshine is a Supreme Court Justice sitting in Kings County and he is the Statewide Coordinating Judge for Matrimonial Matters. He chairs the Chief Judge's Matrimonial Practice and Advisory Rules Committee. Judge Sunshine sits on numerous OCA committees, including the Chief Judge's ADR Advisory Committee and the Court System's Advisory Committee on AI in the Courts, and formally chaired the Board of Advisors of the Center for Children and Families and the Law at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law - Hofstra University. He recently completed and updated his training manual and primer entitled: Understanding the Process: Best Practices for the Effective Management of a Matrimonial Case. His more than 180 decisions have frequently been published in the New York Law Journal and the Unofficial and Official New York State Law Reports. He frequently meets with Judges, Court staff and Bar Associations and presents/moderates CLE and other programs throughout New York State. He is the recipient of numerous awards.



Hon. Richard Rivera, *Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Court Matters*

Hon. Richard Rivera was appointed as Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Court Matters by Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George, effective October 4, 2023. In that role, Judge Rivera has statewide responsibility for, among other things, addressing operational issues impacting Family Court, developing and implementing best practices to promote access to equal justice for children and families in Family Court, creating training for Family Court judges and Court professional staff, and advocating for increased resources for the Family Court. Judge Rivera was elected NYS Supreme Court Justice, 3rd J.D. in November 2023, and on behalf of the Unified Court System he spearheads the Family Justice Initiative. Judge Rivera also co-chairs the Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee as well as the Permanent Commission on Justice for Families.



Hon. Debra J. Young, *Statewide Coordinator for Problem-Solving Courts*

Hon. Debra J. Young currently serves as a Rensselaer County Court Judge and Acting Justice of the Supreme Court for the Third Judicial District of New York. She presides over felony-level criminal trials, civil litigation, and various legal proceedings, including TERPOs, tax foreclosures, and local court appeals. Judge Young also currently serves as the Statewide Coordinating Judge for Problem-Solving Courts, where she collaborates with fellow judges and stakeholders to implement policies, improve operations, and ensure compliance with treatment court best practices across New York State. She has a strong commitment to advancing justice, particularly in specialty courts, to develop and enhance programs that support individuals struggling with substance abuse and other challenges. Judge Young has been a board member for the New York Association of Treatment Court Professionals for the past ten (10) years and previously served as president of the Association. Judge Young earned her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Albany Law School, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology, cum laude, from Loyola University.



Judicial Institute Team



Hon. Kathie E. Davidson
Dean, NYS Judicial Institute

Hon. Kathie E. Davidson, Dean of the New York State Judicial Institute, a statewide judicial education and research center focused on the latest developments in the law and other disciplines that influence the law. As Dean, Judge Davidson oversees the creation and delivery of training seminars for newly elected and appointed Unified Court System (UCS) judges, continuing education programs for UCS judges and lawyers, and cooperative education programs with state and federal judicial systems, legal academics, and other interested stakeholders. Judge Davidson has served as Administrative Judge for the Ninth Judicial District of New York State (2018-2021) and Supervising Judge of the Family Courts in the Ninth Judicial District (2007-2018). Judge Davidson earned her Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

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