

# EDWINA RICHARDSON- MENDELSON



JUDGE EDWINA RICHARDSON-MENDELSON, is a dynamo of an administrator who has worked hard to energize a court she loves—the New York City Family Court.

Serving as administrative judge of the court is not an easy job. Its workload is often characterized as “crushing” or “overwhelming.” The matters it hears—juvenile delinquency, custody, visitation and adoption, abuse and neglect and other issues—generate powerful emotions. Many of the families who seek its intercession don’t have lawyers to navigate the system.

Yet Richardson-Mendelson says that “I wake up everyday absolutely delighted to do this job. I am inspired by our success stories, devastated by what I perceive

to be our failures. We touch lives.”

Undaunted by a recognition that “change is hard” and by the fact that the court’s long-standing shortage of resources has only gotten worse since she took over in May 2009, the judge has enlisted court personnel and stakeholders to make more effective use of existing resources through creativity, communication and accountability.

The court may have some ways to go before reaching the judge’s goal of “the highest standard” of justice in all its functions. But Richardson-Mendelson already has achieved a lot. The Law Journal is pleased to recognize her for the impact she has on the lives of families and children.

— Jeff Storey

AWARDED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CREATIVITY,  
AN OPENNESS TO NEW IDEAS AND WILLINGNESS TO INNOVATE  
IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE CITY’S FAMILY COURTS FOR LITIGANTS  
AND LAWYERS.