



PRESS RELEASE

New York State
Unified Court System

Hon. Alan D. Oshrin
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Tenth Judicial District (Suffolk Co.)

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Supreme Court Integrated Domestic Violence Part Opens In Suffolk County

CENTRAL ISLIP, NY—Suffolk County District Administrative Judge Alan D. Oshrin announced today the opening of the Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) part in Supreme Court. The formal dedication of this specialized part will take place at a grand opening ceremony on October 8, 2002, at 10:30 a.m., in the Supreme Court Ceremonial Courtroom, S-24, located in the Cohalan Court Complex, Central Islip, New York, and will be presided over by Justice Oshrin. In addition, the Honorable Jonathan Lippman, Chief Administrative Judge, and the Honorable A. Gail Prudenti, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department, will be honored guest speakers at the ceremony.

According to Justice Oshrin, “The support of Chief Judge Judith Kaye and Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman has proved to be invaluable in the establishment of this specialized part within our Supreme Court. In addition, I am grateful for the continued and unwavering support of my predecessor, Presiding Justice Gail Prudenti, who during her tenure as District Administrative Judge first recognized the need for a specialized domestic relations part in Suffolk County and was instrumental in establishing the framework for its creation. It is hoped that the Integrated Domestic Violence part, when fully implemented, will be able to handle all the matters which may bring a family into the court system when the underlying issue is domestic violence.”

Operating under the concept of “one family, one judge,” the IDV part will handle all court

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matters involving the same family when there is an allegation of domestic violence, eliminating the need for parties to make multiple appearances in various courts, such as the District, Family, County and Supreme Courts. This specialized court will help to ensure victim safety, increase the accountability of abusers, provide a comprehensive approach to case resolution, integrate the delivery of social services, and eliminate inconsistent or conflicting judicial decisions.

Chief Judge Judith Kaye, who spearheaded the statewide creation of Integrated Domestic Violence Courts, said, "Suffolk County is now the fourth jurisdiction in New York State to establish this very important court, joining Rensselaer, Westchester and Bronx Counties. The Integrated Domestic Violence courts sensibly put all the matters involving one family before a single judge, enabling the court to deal with a family's problems in a comprehensive, coordinated fashion. I am very pleased to celebrate the opening of this special court here in Suffolk County, which will provide for the fair and efficient administration of justice for families in crisis."

In the initial stages of the court's operation, all criminal domestic violence complaints in the District Court and/or all orders of protection in the Family Court will be transferred to the IDV part if a contested matrimonial case in the Supreme Court is filed or pending and the cases have been initiated within a certain time frame of each other. When the court achieves full implementation, every civil and criminal issue facing the family, including divorce, custody, visitation, child support, child abuse and neglect, criminal prosecutions, juvenile delinquency proceedings, PINS petitions, orders of protection and domestic violence will be heard before a single judge.

The Honorable H. Patrick Leis, III, Supervising Justice of the Supreme Court, Matrimonial Parts, will preside over the IDV part in his present courtroom (S-32) at the Cohalan Court Complex in Central Islip. This specialized part will be fully staffed with a court attorney/referee, resource coordinator, project director and court clerk.

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