

THE FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS
JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MINORITIES

RECEPTION HONORING

Honorable David A. Paterson

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS COMMITMENT TO JUDICIAL DIVERSITY



NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT

60 CENTRE STREET, ROTUNDA, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2010

5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

THE FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS
JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MINORITIES MEMBERS

HON. ROSE H. SCONIERS, *Chair*
HON. ARIEL E. BELEN, *Vice Chair*

T. ANDREW BROWN, ESQ.
HON. GEORGE B. DANIELS
HON. KATHIE DAVIDSON
WILLIAM H. ETHERIDGE
FELIX C. FERNANDEZ
NADINE C. JOHNSON, ESQ.
LENORE KRAMER, ESQ.
HON. YVONNE LEWIS
HON. DORIS LING-COHAN
MAJOR ERIC LONG
HON. RICHARD B. LOWE III
HON. STEPHEN MILLER
RENÉ MYATT, ESQ.
HON. EDUARDO PADRÓ
DR. MARIA RAMIREZ
HON. ROBERT E. TORRES
MARILYN VIALIZ
HON. TROY K. WEBBER
ADRIENNE WILLIAMS, ESQ.

HON. LEWIS L. DOUGLASS, *Chair Emeritus*

JOYCE Y. HARTSFIELD, *Executive Director*

KARLENE DENNIS, *Associate Counsel*



THE FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MINORITIES

OVERVIEW



THE NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MINORITIES (*Judicial Commission*) was created by former Chief Judge Sol Wachtler in response to surveys indicating a widespread public perception that race played a significant role in the outcome of court cases. In January 1988, Chief Judge Wachtler appointed Franklin H. Williams to chair the Judicial Commission, charging it with three mandates:

- to ascertain how the public and court participants perceive the treatment of minorities in the courts, with a particular emphasis on how minorities are treated in the courtroom and the extent to which minorities voluntarily use the courts.
- to review the representation of minorities in non-judicial positions, e.g., court clerks, court reporters, court officers, and to recommend ways to increase such representation; and
- to review the selection processes for elected and appointed judges to determine which processes resulted in greater minority representation on the bench.

After three and a half years of extensive studies, interviews, surveys, and public hearings, in April 1991, the Judicial Commission released a five volume report on its findings and recommendations. As a result of this landmark study on minorities and the courts, in June 1991, the Judicial Commission was established as a permanent entity and named the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities in honor of Franklin H. Williams, the chairman of the original study group. The Commission continues to promote racial diversity and cultural sensitivity in the courts and legal profession.



Honorable David A. Paterson

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK



DAVID A. PATERSON became New York's 55th Governor on March 17, 2008. In his first address as Governor, Paterson spoke about the challenges facing New York and his plans to build a better and brighter future for the citizens of this great state.



In 1985, at the age of 31, Governor Paterson was elected to represent Harlem in the New York State Senate, becoming the youngest Senator in Albany at the time. In 2003, he became the first non-white legislative leader in New York's history when he was elevated to Minority Leader of the Senate. In 2007, he became New York's first African- American Lieutenant Governor. As Lieutenant Governor, he led the charge on several crucial issues for New York's future including achieving legislation for stem cell research, working to prevent domestic violence, putting forth a statewide renewable energy strategy and championing the expansion of minority and women owned businesses in New York.

Governor Paterson led the movement to create permanent reforms to the way health care is delivered in New York State to rationalize the State's Medicaid reimbursement system and provide increased investment in primary and preventative care. He overhauled the Rockefeller Drug Laws for the first time in more than 30 years and after a 9-year struggle to update the 1982 law governing bottle deposits, Governor Paterson guided the legislature to enact the Bigger Better Bottle Bill. In addition, as a result of the Governor's leadership, the Empire Zone Program is being reformed and the basic welfare grant was increased for the first time in two decades to help assist those struggling in poverty during a time of unprecedented economic turmoil.

Governor Paterson successfully negotiated an MTA bailout plan allowing commuters to avoid painful service reductions and he introduced landmark civil rights legislation that will end legal discrimination against same-sex couples in New York.

During Governor Paterson tenure as Governor, he demonstrated his commitment to Judicial Diversity by his outstanding appointments to New York State Appellate Divisions, Court of Claims and interim appointments to the New York State Supreme Court.

Governor Paterson was born May 20, 1954 in Brooklyn, New York to Portia and Basil Paterson. He earned his bachelor's degree in History from Columbia University in 1977, and completed his J.D. at Hofstra Law School in 1982. He lives with his wife, Michelle Paige Paterson, and their two children, Ashley and Alex. Ashley attends college in Upstate New York and Alex attends public school in New York City.

DIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS BY GOVERNOR PATERSON

APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST DEPARTMENT

- HON. LUIS A. GONZALEZ
Appointed as Presiding Justice - March 24, 2009
- HON. SHEILA ABDUS-SALAAM - *April 6, 2009*
- HON. LELAND G. DEGRASSE - *April 21, 2008*
- HON. SALLIE MANZANET-DANIELS - *September 25, 2009*
- HON. DIANNE T. RENWICK - *April 14, 2008*
- HON. ROSALYN H. RICHTER - *March 19, 2009*
- HON. NELSON S. ROMAN - *September 25, 2009*

APPELLATE DIVISION, SECOND DEPARTMENT

- HON. ARIEL E. BELEN - *Reappointed January 1, 2009*
- HON. L. PRISCILLA HALL - *March 19, 2009*
- HON. PLUMMER E. LOTT - *March 19, 2009*

APPELLATE DIVISION, THIRD DEPARTMENT

- HON. ELIZABETH A. GARRY - *March 19, 2009*

APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT

- HON. SAMUEL L. GREEN - *Reappointed January 1, 2010*
- HON. ROSE H. SCONIERS - *February 1, 2010*

'NOMINATED' INTERIM AND COURT OF CLAIMS

- HON. JUAN MERCHAN - *Reappointed, Court of Claims - May 28, 2009*
- HON. FERNANDO CAMACHO - *Court of Claims - April 11, 2008*
- HON. SUSAN M. CAPECI- *Westchester County Court - April 11, 2008*
- HON. JHILMIL GHALEB - *Ostego County Court- April 11, 2008*
- HON. DEBORAH SCHNEER - *Ulster County Court- June 17, 2009*
- HON. O. PETER SHERWOOD - *Court of Claims - April 11, 2008*
- HON. GINA LOPEZ-SUMMA - *Reappointed, Court of Claims - April 11, 2008*
- HON. CHARLES TEJADA - *Reappointed, Court of Claims - June 13, 2008*
- HON. PAUL WOOTEN - *Supreme Court, 2nd JD - April 11, 2008*

P R O G R A M

W E L C O M I N G R E M A R K S

HONORABLE ROSE H. SCONIERS

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, APPELLATE DIVISION, 4TH DEPARTMENT
CHAIR, FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MINORITIES

R E M A R K S

HONORABLE ANN PFAU

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM

I N T R O D U C T I O N O F H O N O R E E

HONORABLE KEITH L.T. WRIGHT

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN, ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 70

R E M A R K S & A W A R D P R E S E N T A T I O N

HONORABLE JONATHAN LIPPMAN

CHIEF JUDGE, NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS

R E M A R K S B Y H O N O R E E

HONORABLE DAVID A. PATERSON

GOVERNOR, NEW YORK STATE

C L O S I N G R E M A R K S

HONORABLE KATHIE DAVIDSON

SUPERVISING FAMILY COURT JUDGE, NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
RECEPTION CHAIR, FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MINORITIES