



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge**

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New Co-Chairs Named to Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission

New York – Chief Judge Janet DiFiore today designated Justices Shirley Troutman and Troy K. Webber to co-chair the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, which works to promote equal participation and equal justice for minorities in the court system. Hon. Richard B. Lowe III, former Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department, will be stepping down as Chair, having led the Commission with distinction since December 2015.

Chief Judge DiFiore said, “We are fortunate to have two such distinguished jurists to serve as the new co-chairs of the Franklin H. Williams Commission. I have every confidence that they will provide outstanding direction and leadership in advancing the Commission’s work and mission, which are so critical to the well-being of our justice system.”

Hon. Shirley Troutman was appointed to the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, in 2016. She previously served as a trial judge in State Supreme Court in the Eighth Judicial District. Prior to her election to State Supreme Court, she was a County Court judge in Erie County. She began her judicial career in Buffalo City Court, to which she was elected in 1994. Prior to her ascension to the bench, she served as an assistant United States attorney for the Western District of New York, an assistant attorney general for the State of New York and an assistant district attorney in Erie County.

Justice Troutman is active in various professional and civic organizations, and has served as an adjunct professor at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo Law School, a

lecturer at the New York State Judicial Institute and a faculty member on the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence. She earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY at Buffalo and a J.D. from Albany Law School.

Justice Webber was elevated to the Appellate Division, First Department, in 2016. She previously sat in State Supreme Court, Bronx County-Criminal Term, and since 2009 served as an acting Surrogate in New York County. Before her 2002 election to State Supreme Court, she was a New York City Civil Court judge. She was designated an acting Supreme Court justice in 2000. Prior to her judicial career, she was a deputy bureau chief with the New York City Law Department, a senior associate at a private law firm, a law clerk to Justice William Davis and an assistant district attorney in Manhattan.

An adjunct professor of law at Monroe College and Touro College, Justice Webber has mentored students from several New York City-area universities, participates in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Program, which encourages Bronx middle and high school students to explore careers in the law, and is also active in moot court programs sponsored by New York Law School and New York University School of Law. She earned her bachelor's degree from New York University and her J.D. from New York University School of Law.

In recognition of outgoing Chair Richard Lowe's contributions, Chief Judge DiFiore added, "I am thankful to Justice Lowe for his dynamic leadership of the Commission, which continued to thrive during his tenure as Chair, maintaining its standing as a model for court systems around the country."

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