



2024 STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

PERMANENT COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE



PURPOSE

- THE MISSION OF THE PERMANENT COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE (THE COMMISSION) IS TO EXPAND ACCESS TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE GENERALLY.
- IT PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE CHIEF JUDGE'S ANNUAL STATEWIDE HEARING TO ASSESS THE UNMET NEEDS FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN CIVIL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN NEEDS, AND IT ASSISTS IN DEVELOPING THE CHIEF JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND THE EXECUTIVE ABOUT THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC RESOURCES NECESSARY TO MEET THOSE NEEDS.
- THE COMMISSION ALSO HAS ONGOING RESPONSIBILITY TO STUDY, ANALYZE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALL ASPECTS OF CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME NEW YORKERS; TO ISSUE RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDING FOR IMPROVED AND INCREASED ACCESS; AND TO COLLABORATE ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE ISSUES, INCLUDING EXPANDED PRO BONO SERVICES AND HELP FOR UNREPRESENTED LITIGANTS.

HISTORY

- The Commission was established in 2015 with the enactment of Part 51.1 of the Rules of the Chief Judge ([22 NYCRR § 51.1](#)). The original mandate of the Task Force was to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York, formed in 2010 by then-Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman as part of a comprehensive effort to provide counsel to low-income New Yorkers in civil cases.
- Since its establishment, each year, the Chief Judge, with assistance from the Commission, holds a public hearing to assess the unmet civil legal needs of low-income New Yorkers. Based on the public hearing and its ongoing work, the Permanent Commission issues an annual report to the Chief Judge recommending initiatives to help close the access-to-justice gap in the State.
- The Chief Judge submits these annual reports to the Governor and Legislature pursuant to a 2010 Joint Legislative Resolution. The result of this process has been the implementation of multi-faceted initiatives to help bridge the justice gap—most importantly attaining the initial funding goal of \$100 million of dedicated annual State funding for civil legal services.

THE COMMISSION MEMBERS INCLUDE JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, LAW PROFESSORS, DEANS, LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND EX OFFICIO MEMBERS FROM OCA, THE NYS SENATE AND THE NYS ASSEMBLY

Co-Chairs:

Helaine M. Barnett

President, Legal Services Corporation (2004–2009)

Hon. Christina Ryba

Supervising Judge of the Supreme Court, Third Judicial District

Hon. Shahabuddeen A. Ally

Supervising Judge of Civil Court of the City of New York, New York County

THE COMMISSION MEMBERS COLLABORATE ON VARIOUS INITIATIVES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Hon. Lucy Billings

Immigration Judge, U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review

Kristin Brown

President & CEO, Empire Justice Center

Hon. Anthony Cannataro

Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals

Kim Diana Connolly

Vice-Dean for Advocacy and Experiential Education; Director of Clinical Legal Education, University of Buffalo School of Law

Sal Curran

Executive Director, Volunteer Lawyers Project of Central New York, Inc.

Matthew Diller

Dean and Paul Fuller Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law

Shelley J. Dropkin

[Past Chair, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest]
Managing Director, Deputy Corporate Secretary and General Counsel, Corporate Governance, Citigroup Inc.

Camille Siano Enders

[Women's Bar Association of the State of New York]
Deputy County Attorney, Schenectady County Attorney's Office

Christine Fecko

General Counsel, Interest on Lawyer Account Fund

Barbara Finkelstein

Co-chair, Westchester County Right to Counsel Coalition

AT COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS, VARIOUS LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE INVITED TO SHARE INFORMATION ON SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES THAT ADDRESS THE JUSTICE GAP THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Hon. Fern A. Fisher

Executive Director, Legal Hand; Visiting Associate Professor of Law, Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University

Robert B. Fiske, Jr.

Senior Counsel, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Michael D. Fricklas

Chief Legal Officer, Advance Publications

Robert J. Giuffra, Jr.

Co-Chair & Partner, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Rachel Chazin Halperin

Chief Executive Officer, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley

Adriene Holder

Chief Attorney, Civil Practice, The Legal Aid Society

Daniel Hurteau

Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP

John Kiernan

Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton (Ret.)

Denise Kronstadt

Executive Director/Director of Advocacy, The Fund for Modern Courts

Donna H. Lee

Professor, CUNY School of Law

Mary Beth Maloney

Partner, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher

Linton Mann III

Partner, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

INFORMATION GATHERED AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS IS REVIEWED AND PROCESSED TO ULTIMATLY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHIEF JUDGE

Scott D. Musoff

Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Adrian Neil

General Counsel, Rochester City School District

Lori M. O'Brien

Executive Director, Legal Assistance of Western New York

David A. Picon

Partner, Proskauer Rose LLP

Hon. A. Gail Prudenti

Former Chief Administrative Judge, NYS Unified Court System

Nic Rangel

Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc.

Lauren M. Rosenberg

Partner, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

Janet Sabel

Director, Access to Justice Initiative, Center on Civil Justice,
New York University School of Law

Shervon Small

Executive Director, Legal Services NYC

Hon. Jack Stoller

Citywide Supervising Judge, New York City Housing Court

Deborah L. Wright

Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Union (RAWDSU),
Political Director

Barbara Zahler-Gringer

Former Counsel for Administration, Office of Court
Administration

THE COMMISSION COLLABORATES WITH THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING LOCAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE COORDINATORS AND THE DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR JUSTICE INITIATIVES

Ex Officio

Hon. Edwina G. Richardson

Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives

Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal

Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Assemblymember Charles D. Lavine

Chair, Assembly Standing Committee on Judiciary

Counsel

Jessica Klein

Special Counsel & Head of Pro Bono Practice, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Madeline B. Jenks

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Rochelle Klempner

Office of Court Administration

Barbara Mulé

Office of Court Administration

Special Advisor

Mary C. Mone

Special Counsel to the Chief Judge (Ret.)

ANNUAL SIGNATURE EVENTS

The Commission hosts four signature events each year:

- 1) Technology Conference;
- 2) Law School Conference;
- 3) Annual Stakeholders Meeting; and
- 4) Chief Judge's Hearing on Civil Legal Services – September 16, 2024

2024 AREAS OF FOCUS:

In consultation with Chief Judge Wilson, the Commission's focus for 2024 includes:

- 1) Access to justice barriers faced by litigants in summary proceedings in the Town and Village Courts;
- 2) Initiatives to help address the rural justice crisis;
- 3) Expanding legal roles to increase the availability of authorized professionals who can provide legal assistance;
- 4) Strengthening the capacity of legal services providers through increased use of technology, including the advancement of AI to expand access to justice

WORKING GROUPS

- Five Working Groups have been established to study the issues and make recommendations for adoption by the Permanent Commission.
- The Working Groups generally meet bi-weekly, with significant assistance from the Permanent Commission's staff counsel.
- This year, the Working Groups have invited legal providers throughout the state to present summaries of innovative programs that have been implemented in other states. The goal is to gather data to formulate recommendations to the Chief Judge for New York State.

Thank You

Hon. Christina Ryba

**Co-Chair, New York State Permanent Commission on
Access to Justice**

**Email: cryba@nycourts.gov
accesstojusticecommission@nycourts.gov**

Website: <https://ww2.nycourts.gov/accesstojusticecommission>