



NYS PERMANENT COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE 2020 STATEWIDE STAKEHOLDERS MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2020

9:00 am – 10:50 am

Opening Plenary

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) • (347) 378-4143 – Conference ID: 457 851 779#

Welcoming Remarks

- Helaine M. Barnett, Chair, NYS Permanent Commission on Access to Justice
- Scott M. Karson, President, New York State Bar President

Opening Remarks

- Hon. Janet DiFiore, Chief Judge of the State of New York

Updates on Local Access to Justice Initiatives

- Helaine M. Barnett
- Hon. Vito Caruso, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside NYC

Judicial Districts Reports

- Hon. Thomas Breslin, Administrative Judge, 3rd Judicial District
- Hon. Felix Catena, Administrative Judge, 4th Judicial District
- Hon. James Murphy, Administrative Judge, 5th Judicial District
- Hon. Eugene Faughnan, Administrative Judge, 6th Judicial District
- Hon. Craig J. Doran, Administrative Judge, 7th Judicial District
- Hon. Paula Feroletto, Administrative Judge, 8th Judicial District
- Hon. Kathie Davidson, Administrative Judge, 9th Judicial District
- Hon. Norman St. George, Administrative Judge, 10th Judicial District (Nassau)
- Hon. Andrew Crecca, Administrative Judge, 10th Judicial District (Suffolk)

New York City Report

- Hon. Edwina Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Breakout Sessions

1. Virtual Proceedings: Evaluating the Court User Experience

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Facilitators:

- Hon. Edwina Mendelson
- Hon. Lucy Billings, Supreme Court Justice, New York County
- Camille Siano Enders, Assistant Public Defender, Schenectady Public Defenders Office

While in-court operations are expanding, most court cases will continue to be heard virtually. Through interactive discussion, stakeholders will consider best practices for operating virtual courts and for creating safe spaces in the courthouse and elsewhere for the participation of unrepresented litigants. What did we get right; what could we do better? How can findings from the court user survey inform next steps?

2. Innovative Pilot Projects in Response to COVID

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Facilitators:

- Kristin Brown, President/CEO, Empire Justice Center
- Maria-Alana Recine, Court Attorney Referee, 9th Judicial District Administrative Judge's Office
- Christine Sisario, Director of Technology, Office of Court Administration

The courts, legal services providers and other access to justice stakeholders continue to develop innovative solutions to respond to the access to justice crisis worsened by the pandemic. Participants will discuss innovations, including a consumer debt settlement part, other specialized COVID-related parts, faith-based initiatives, and a child support pro bono project, as well as technology that supports virtual Help Centers, remote Kiosks and the Electronic Document Delivery System (EDDS). What are the key components of a successful project? How can these innovations be replicated around the state?

3. Finding Solutions to the Impending Eviction Crisis

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Facilitators:

- Barbara Finkelstein, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
- Tina Foster, Executive Director, Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County
- Neil Steinkamp, Managing Director, Stout Risius Ross, LLC

The economic hardship caused by the pandemic is precipitating an unprecedented eviction crisis. Various efforts are underway around the State to avert the crisis, including implementation of universal access to counsel initiatives in New York City and the Seventh and Ninth Judicial Districts, and the establishment of the Monroe County Special COVID-19 Intervention Part and related integrated intake platform. How do we expand these local efforts to other districts? How do we find ways to sustain and expand funding for legal representation in eviction matters?

4. Exploring Local Access to Justice Initiatives to Address Racial Injustice in the Civil Justice System

Section 4.1 (3rd, 4th and 5th Judicial Districts)

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Section 4.2 (6th, 7th and 8th Judicial Districts)

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Section 4.3 (9th and 10th Judicial Districts, and New York City)

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Facilitators:

- Hon. Fern Fisher, Special Assistant to the Dean for Public Interest Initiatives & Social Justice, Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University
- Sheila Gaddis, Partner, Barclay Damon LLP
- Lillian Moy, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY

The pandemic helped shine a light on the impact of systemic racism in our communities and the courts. This session will provide an opportunity for a wide-ranging conversation on racial inequity faced by persons of color interacting with the civil justice system and how best to address historic racial injustice to ensure fairness and equity in the courts.

12:40 pm – 1:00 pm

Closing Plenary

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Breakout Sessions Reports

Facilitator:

- John Kiernan, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Closing Remarks

- Helaine M. Barnett