



# **NEWS RELEASE**

**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas  
Chief Administrative Judge**

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## **Court Officers Academy's Largest, Most Diverse Graduating Class to Be Deployed to Courts in New York City, Long Island, and the Hudson Valley**

**NEW YORK**—With the New York State Courts' steadfast focus on building a more diverse and inclusive nonjudicial workforce, Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George are pleased to report that the Court Officers Academy's most recent graduating class is its largest-ever—and its most diverse. Of the 251 graduates, 5.6% identify as Asian American; 19.3% as Black; 29.7% as Hispanic; and 6% as multi-racial/multi-ethnic, with 23% of the class made up of women.

Collectively, the Academy's newest graduates have roots in countries spanning the globe, from Jamaica to Sri Lanka. Additionally, they come from a wide variety of professions, having worked as law enforcement employees, nurses, EMTs, veterinary technicians, park rangers, a nutritionist, a TSA agent, a carpenter, a major league baseball network associate producer, and an accountant, along with numerous other once-held job titles. These newly minted officers also include a judge's son and several individuals following in the footsteps of their parents, siblings, or other relatives.

Among the efforts being implemented by the court system to increase the diversity and inclusiveness of its non-judicial workforce, the Office of Court Administration's (OCA) Division of Human Resources launched a multimedia recruitment campaign, using social media, email, signage, videos, and other modes of communication to raise public awareness about the Unified Court System's mission and the career opportunities available within the courts. The Division is also working with Chief of the Department of Public Safety Michael Magliano and the Court Officers Academy, which is led by Chief of Training Joseph Baccellieri, on initiatives to foster public understanding of the role and functions of New York's state courts, as well as the various court career paths.

Having successfully completed the Academy's rigorous and comprehensive training program, the new graduates will now be deployed to courts in New York City, Long Island, and the Ninth Judicial District's Hudson Valley region, joining the ranks of the New York State Court Officers' corps—nearly 4,000 strong—who as peace officers are responsible for providing law enforcement and security services and maintaining order in New York State's 300-plus courtrooms and building facilities.

"I am excited by our progress as we work to build a more inclusive cadre of uniformed officers—a court officer corps that embodies New York's rich mosaic—and a more diversified non-judicial workforce throughout the State. I want to thank Chief Magliano, OCA's Division of Human Resources, the Applicant Verification Unit, led by Major Frank Casiano, and Chief Baccellieri and the Court Officers Academy for their coordinated efforts toward these goals. Additionally, I am both impressed and inspired by the hardworking, highly motivated candidates that we continue to attract to carry out this public-facing role that is so crucial to the court system's functioning and the delivery of justice in New York State," said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. "Please join me in congratulating the Court Officers Academy's newest graduates and welcoming them to their respective new posts."

"New York State Court Officers truly are the ambassadors of our state courts and justice system. Theirs is a critical position, calling for a uniformed corps that encompasses a wide range of diversity in best serving the many New Yorkers of varying needs who each year come to our courts seeking resolution and assistance on an array of legal matters. With their breadth of lived experiences and perspectives, our newest Academy graduates will surely enrich the ranks of our officer corps and serve to enhance public trust in the New York State Courts," said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George. "I commend Chief Baccellieri and the Academy staff for their stellar efforts in preparing the graduates to carry out their new assignments."

"Combining their mix of talents and traditions—and the knowledge and skills acquired and honed during their months of intensive training at the Court Officers Academy—the new graduates make a wonderful addition to our court family. As demonstrated by their tenacity, dedication, and awareness, they are ready and able to assume their vital public service roles and I couldn't be prouder. I am also grateful to the Academy, whose extraordinary work is reflected in the success of these new court officers," said Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Edwina G. Richardson.

"I am happy and proud of the fact that we have graduated the largest class of court officers in our history. It is rewarding to see such a diverse group of individuals who will serve the people of New York State. Chief Baccellieri and the Academy staff have done another amazing job of taking a large group of people from diverse backgrounds and making them one cohesive unit. A strength comes out of their training process that makes them better court officers," said Chief Magliano.

“I am pleased by the diversity of backgrounds and life experiences of this—our largest-ever—graduating class. They leave the classroom as a unit, fully committed to serving the public, and with a deep understanding of the importance of treating all who enter our courthouses with the utmost dignity, respect, and humanity while ensuring their safety, so that the important business of the court may be carried out in a safe and fair environment,” said Chief Baccellieri.

Newly graduated officer Shawn Pierre Cromartie, a squad leader and the recipient of the Academy’s leadership and academic awards, knows firsthand the value of diversity in building a strong team or unit. Shawn, who is of Jamaican and African American descent, summed it up best in his graduation address, stating, “Some of us excelled at running, some in academics, some in firearms handling. At the end of the day, we all had something to contribute.”

To learn more about Court Officer recruitment and other Unified Court System careers and job opportunities, please visit the UCS website: [www.nycourts.gov/careers](http://www.nycourts.gov/careers)

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