



# **NEWS RELEASE**

**New York State  
Unified Court System**

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

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## **Chief Administrative Judge Zayas Announces Appellate Term, Second Department Appointments**

**NEW YORK**—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas today announced the appointments of Justice Joseph R. Conway to the State Supreme Court’s Appellate Term, Second Department’s Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts; and Justice Joanne D. Quiñones to the Appellate Term, Second Department’s Second, Eleventh, and Thirteenth Judicial Districts. The former hears appeals from cases originating in the City and Justice Courts in Long Island and Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties, as well as in Long Island’s District Courts, while the latter hears appeals in cases originating in the Civil and Criminal Courts in New York City’s Kings, Queens, and Richmond counties. Justice Conway will fill a vacancy created by Justice James McCormack’s appointment to the Appellate Division, Second Department. Justice Quiñones will replace Justice Phillip Hom, who has also been elevated to the Appellate Division, Second Department. The appointments were made with the approval of Appellate Division, Second Department Presiding Justice Hector D. LaSalle.

“Justices Conway and Quiñones are highly accomplished and respected jurists who bring extensive knowledge, skills, and experience to each of these prestigious posts. With their reputation for fairness, integrity, hard work, and collegiality—and their passion for the law and the pursuit of justice—they will be assets to the Appellate Term’s Second Department. I have every confidence in their abilities and am delighted to welcome them to their respective new judicial roles,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.

“We are fortunate to have two such eminently qualified candidates to fill these important judicial posts. Both are admired for their legal acumen, diligence, and steadfast commitment to the fair administration of justice and will greatly benefit these busy appellate benches,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George.

“I am both humbled and honored to be appointed to the Appellate Term. I am thankful to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George for their confidence in me and look forward to the challenges ahead,” said Justice Conway.

“It is an incredible honor to be appointed to serve on the Appellate Term for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts. As a judge of Latinx descent, being appointed during Hispanic Heritage Month makes it all the more special. I am extremely grateful to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George, and Presiding Justice LaSalle for this appointment. I look forward to working with the other members of the court to ensure that the appeals of litigants from New York City’s Criminal and Civil Courts continue to receive the time, attention, and seriousness they deserve,” said Justice Quiñones.

Justice Conway has been serving on the Nassau County Supreme Court bench since January 2021, handling cases involving all aspects of divorce, including child custody and support, parental visitation, and equitable distribution. He has also been sitting in the Court’s Integrated Domestic Violence part, a specialized court part where a single judge hears related cases involving domestic violence victims and their families, addressing criminal, divorce, family, and other legal issues. Prior to his election to Nassau County’s Supreme Court bench, he was a partner at LaRusso, Conway & Bartling LLP, a Long Island law firm with a focus on white collar criminal defense, internal ethics investigations, and federal civil litigation in New York’s Eastern and Southern Districts. Previously, from 1990 to 2004, he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in New York’s Eastern District, where he prosecuted over 1,000 cases—including as lead prosecutor in several noteworthy cases—and supervised the litigation training of many attorneys. Before that, he was the principal law clerk to Hon. Mark A. Costantino of the Eastern District of New York. He began his career at the United States District Court, where he worked as a file clerk, docket clerk, and courtroom deputy clerk to several District Court judges while attending evening classes, earning his undergraduate degree from St. John’s University and his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. He is a frequent lecturer at the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations on various topics involving civil litigation and criminal matters at both the federal and state levels.

Justice Quiñones began her judicial career in New York City Criminal Court, serving in the Bronx, Kings, and New York counties over the course of her tenure. She was designated an acting Supreme Court Justice in Kings County in January 2017, handling both criminal and matrimonial matters. She was appointed to New York’s Court of Claims in June 2022 and elected the following year to the State Supreme Court bench in Kings County, where she sits in the Court’s Criminal Term. Prior to taking the bench, she served for ten years as the principal court attorney to the Hon. Matthew F. Cooper during his tenure in New York City’s Criminal Court and later Civil Court, followed by his service on the New York County Supreme Court’s Civil Term. She previously worked as a staff attorney in The Legal Aid Society’s Criminal Defense Division. She is a graduate of Brown University and Fordham University School of Law, where she was a Louis Stein Scholar in Public Interest Law and Ethics. Justice Quiñones has served as a member of Fordham University School of Law’s Public Interest Advisory Council.

An advocate and beneficiary of professional and personal mentoring, she chairs the Brooklyn Bar Association's Mentorship Committee, the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission's Judicial Mentor Program, and the Latino Judges Association's Summer Internship Program Committee and has taken on countless interns and mentees. She is a past president of both the Latino Judges Associations and the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and the recipient of numerous accolades for her leadership and judicial excellence.

The appointments are effective immediately.

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