



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

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Chief Judge Wilson Announces Series of PSAs Encouraging Participation in Jury Service

NEW YORK—In recognition of the crucial role juries play in our democracy, and in ensuring justice, Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson today announced that throughout November the New York State Unified Court System will roll out a series of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) encouraging participation in jury service. The PSAs, which feature individuals from a broad cross-section of our community, underscore the importance of jury service and advise how you can volunteer to be a juror instead of waiting to be called.

“Typically, the week before Thanksgiving is Juror Appreciation Week, but this year the whole month of November is Jury Appreciation Month,” said Chief Judge Wilson. “Jurors—citizens from all walks of life and all backgrounds—are crucial not just to our system of justice but stand as a bulwark that preserves our democratic institutions. Only if all participate can we attain the goal of our Founders in providing a jury of we, the people.”

Each of the 16 PSAs was filmed and produced by Youth FX, through the south end Albany-based organization’s full-service production company, Rogue FX, which offers young people professional on-set experience in digital film and media. Those who graduate from Youth FX programs are offered the opportunity to work on Rogue FX productions and be mentored by their team of experienced filmmakers. In addition to the PSAs, Youth FX/Rogue FX this year produced new orientation films for individuals reporting for petit (trial) or grand jury service. Those films, which will be shown to approximately one million individuals annually in every county of the state, are available on the court system’s YouTube channel (grand jury: <https://youtu.be/Hn2YsmGq3Fs>; petit jury, <https://youtu.be/Biauu4qhK3c>).

More than two dozen individuals—including judges, court personnel and private citizens—appear in the various films.

“I am deeply appreciative that so many people, from inside the court system and from the community at large, so eagerly and patiently participated in the filming. I am also grateful that Youth FX used the production of these PSAs to train and inform a young generation of aspiring filmmakers,” said Chief Judge Wilson.

Rashid Howell, co-founder and technical director of Youth FX, said partnering with the court system has not only provided young people with an opportunity to apply the skills they learned in the program, but also to fully appreciate the importance of jury service in our system of justice.

“Through this partnership, we have been able to put a dozen of our alums to work on the jury and juror productions, giving them the chance to travel across the state, visit courtrooms, meet judges and gain insight into the workings of our judicial system,” said Howell. “The experience is invaluable, and we are very grateful to the court system and Chief Judge Wilson for entrusting Youth FX/ Rogue FX with this important initiative.”

Each business day starting today and ending November 26, a different PSA will post on the court system’s YouTube channel and social media pages at <https://www.youtube.com/@nyscourts550>. The series will begin and end with a message from the Chief Judge and throughout the month will also feature:

- Jack Amodeo, a Senior Management Analyst in the Office of Court Administration’s (OCA) Division of Financial Management
- Cydcharrise Bailey, Senior Court Clerk in Bronx County Civil Court
- Dr. Betty Campbell, Westchester County Commissioner of Jurors and Commissioner of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission
- Deanna Cantor, a sign language interpreter who recorded a message by signing
- Hon. Valerie Cartright, a State Supreme Court Justice in Suffolk County who recorded versions in both English and Haitian Creole
- Lt. Christopher Foti, a member of the New York State Court Officers’ corps
- Dr. Enid Gort, an anthropologist and biographer
- Mary Lynn Nicolas-Brewster, Executive Director, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission
- Martha Perez, a Management Analyst in OCA’s Jury Support Office
- Hon. Joanne Quinones, Associate Justice, Second Department Appellate Term, who recorded a Spanish language version
- Jessica Simard, former Statewide Jury Coordinator and current Deputy for Application and Project Management in OCA’s Division of Technology and Court Research
- Poonam Sinha, Principal Applications Programmer for Jury Applications in OCA’s Division of Technology and Court Research
- Hon. Milton Tingling, former Supreme Court Justice and current New York County Clerk and Commissioner of Jurors

The court system plans to use the PSAs for years to come in a variety of ways, including on social media and monitors in courthouses and court facilities, among other potential uses.

New York State residents 18 and over may volunteer for jury service at <https://portal.nycourts.gov/jqq/>.

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