



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

**Contact:
Al Baker, Communications Director
Arlene Hackel
(212) 428-2500
publicinformation@nycourts.gov
www.nycourts.gov/press**

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New Administrative Judges Named in New York City

NEW YORK—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George today announced several administrative appointments in New York City: Hon. Shahabuddeen A. Ally has been named Administrative Judge of New York City Civil Court; Hon. Genine D. Edwards will serve as Administrative Judge for Kings County Supreme Court’s Civil Term in Brooklyn; and Hon. Raymond L. Rodriguez has been designated Administrative Judge for Richmond County Supreme Court in Staten Island. The appointments were made with the approval of Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and in consultation with the respective Presiding Justices of the State Supreme Court’s Appellate Division, Hon. Dianne T. Renwick (First Department) and Hon. Hector D. LaSalle (Second Department). Justice Ally succeeds Hon. Carolyn Walker-Diallo, who will now serve on the Kings County Supreme Court’s Civil Term. Justice Edwards will replace Hon. Lawrence Knipel, who will preside over a dedicated commercial part full-time; and Justice Rodriguez will succeed Hon. Desmond Green, who will continue to serve on the bench in Kings County Supreme Court.

“We are most fortunate to have three such distinguished jurists—all dynamic leaders—to fill these critically important administrative assignments. Each of these appointees brings enormous knowledge, energy, and vision to their new role. Along with their extensive judicial and administrative expertise, all are widely recognized for their deep commitment to the pursuit of equal justice, and their ability to seek and implement innovative strategies to meet and advance the court system’s crucial mandate,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. “I have every confidence they will work diligently, building on the work of their predecessors, to ensure access to the courts for all New Yorkers regardless of circumstance, while nurturing community partnerships in fortifying the court system’s DEI efforts and public outreach and education initiatives.”

“These three exemplary candidates are the embodiment of excellence in judicial leadership, as demonstrated by their impressive records of public service and innovation. With their collaborative, goal-oriented approach and capacity for establishing and building strategic partnerships, Justices Ally, Edwards, and Rodriguez will undoubtedly be assets to their respective courts,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George. “I am eager to work alongside them as we continue to leverage new tools and implement novel programs to streamline case resolution, optimize court operations, promote user access, and strengthen court-community bridges in our ongoing quest to build a more equitable, modern, and effective court system that can best serve the wide-ranging needs of New Yorkers now and in the future.”

“The New York City Civil Court is the ‘People’s Court’ for a reason. It’s where the citizens of this city come—often without legal representation—looking for a fair resolution of the most critical issues facing them in their daily lives, such as housing and eviction issues. Serving as the court’s Administrative Judge, with the opportunity to guide it in its mission to meeting the peoples’ needs, is truly an honor and a privilege. I thank Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. Judge, Deputy Chief Administrative Judges Edwina Richardson, James Murphy, and Adam Silvera for giving me this opportunity,” said Justice Ally.

“I am honored for the opportunity to serve as Administrative Judge of Kings County Supreme Court, Civil Term. As the highest trial court in Kings County, it stands as a beacon for many who seek justice. Justice Knipel has been an outstanding leader, and I am committed to further advancing the progress he has made. I look forward to collaborating with the bench and bar to continue to ensure fair, timely, and efficient resolution of cases and accessibility for all who come before this Court. I thank Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. Judge, Deputy Chief Administrative Judges Edwina Richardson, James Murphy, and Adam Silvera for allowing me to serve in this capacity,” said Justice Edwards.

“I want to thank Chief Judge Rowan Wilson, Chief Administrative Judge Joseph Zayas, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George, and Deputy Chief Administrative Judges Richardson, Murphy, and Silvera for having the confidence in me to lead the Richmond County Supreme Court as its new Administrative Judge. I am confident that under my leadership the Richmond County Supreme Court will be a model to showcase how a 21st century court administers justice. Finally, I want to thank my parents, Jorge and Carolina, and my wife and son, Antoinette and Max Luis. This would not have been possible without their love and support,” said Justice Rodriguez.

Prior to his appointment as Administrative Judge, Justice Ally had been serving as Supervising Judge of New York City Civil Court in New York County (Manhattan) and is the first person of South Asian descent to hold an administrative judicial role in New York City. He was elected to New York City Civil Court in 2018, becoming the first Muslim male judge elected in New York State, and was assigned to the Criminal Court bench in Bronx County. Before taking the bench, he built a private practice specializing in family and criminal law. He began his legal career as a staff attorney with the

Administration for Children's Services in the Bronx and later served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the New York City Law Department. He is a graduate of Hofstra University School of Law.

Born in Guyana and raised in the Bronx, Justice Ally is a passionate advocate for innovation, inclusion, and equal access to justice. Among his numerous extra-judicial activities, he serves as co-chair of the New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice and is a member of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission.

Hon. Genine Edwards currently sits on the Kings County Supreme Court's civil bench, serving as Presiding Justice of the Court's Medical Malpractice ADR Part. She was elected to New York City Civil Court in 2005, sitting in Kings County, and designated an acting Supreme Court Justice in 2015. For nearly a decade, she was a senior staff attorney at Cohen, Kuhn, and Associates. She began her legal career as an Assistant Corporation Counsel with the New York City Law Department and continued in public service as staff counsel at the New York Power Authority, litigating employment discrimination claims. Justice Edwards earned her J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.

Justice Edwards' affiliations and extra-judicial activities are many and varied. She has been a Brooklyn Women's Bar Association board member for over a decade and currently serves as vice president. She is also vice president of the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the City of New York, has chaired various court committees, regularly hosts student interns—from high schoolers to law school students—is a mock trial judge for St. John's University School of Law, and developed and continues to moderate a "Meet Your Judges" forum, among her other efforts on behalf of the legal and greater community.

Hon. Raymond L. Rodriguez has been presiding over a trial part in Kings County Supreme Court's Criminal Term. He was first appointed to the New York City Civil Court bench in 2013 and subsequently appointed to New York City Criminal Court, to which he was later reappointed. Prior to his ascension to the bench, he was a solo practitioner specializing in civil and criminal litigation. Early in his career, he served as an assistant district attorney in the Richmond County District Attorney's office, initially in the office's Criminal Court Bureau and later in its Supreme Court Bureau. During his time in private practice, he was an adjunct professor of law at New York Law School, where he taught legal writing and reasoning, as well as appellate practice courses, to first-year law students. He is a graduate of Widener University School of Law and was recognized as a Widener Scholar, earning a full scholarship.

Justice Rodriguez is a frequent presenter and panelist on a range of court and law-related topics, from summary jury trials to implicit bias in family law to pathways to becoming a judge, among other issues. He is a founding member of the Staten Island Hispanic Bar Association and the first native Staten Islander of Puerto Rican ancestry to hold public office.

In tribute to the outgoing Administrative Judges, Judges Zayas and St. George said, “We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Justices Walker-Diallo, Knipel, and Green for their hard work and dedication in leading their respective courts these past years, during which they instituted new protocols and programs to enhance the delivery and quality of justice. We are pleased Justices Walker-Diallo, Knipel, and Green will continue to serve New Yorkers, sharing their decades of combined experience and judicial acumen.”

Justice Ally’s appointment is effective immediately, while the appointments of Justices Edwards and Rodriguez are effective January 2, 2025.

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