

## **HON. BETSY BARROS**

Associate Justice  
NYS Supreme Court  
Appellate Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Department

Honorable Betsy Barros was elevated to Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department by Governor Andrew Cuomo in April 2014.

In 1997, Justice Betsy Barros was elected to the Kings County Supreme Court bench.

She has the distinction of being the first Latina woman to serve in both capacities. A graduate of Cornell University, she received her Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in 1979, and New York University School of Law where she received her J.D. in 1982. Justice Barros has dedicated her entire legal and judicial career to public service.

After representing indigent clients as a public defender for six years as a staff member of the Legal Aid Society, in Brooklyn, she prosecuted corruption in the criminal justice system as a Special State Prosecutor. She later prosecuted bias-related crimes and supervised staff attorneys in the Kings County District Attorney's Office as Chief of their Civil Rights Bureau and as Chief of a felony trial bureau.

After her election to the Civil Court bench in 1995, Justice Barros served in New York County Criminal Court where she presided over criminal cases until she was elected to the Supreme Court. She served two terms as a Supreme Court Justice in Kings County.

Over the past nineteen years, Justice Barros has presided over criminal, matrimonial and guardianship matters. Serving in the Criminal Term of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn for six years, Justice Barros primarily dedicated herself to diverting addicted youth and adult predicate offenders facing long term prison sentences into alternative to incarceration programs. She placed and closely monitored hundreds of felony offenders into programs such as TASC (a pioneer drug treatment alternative to incarceration program which as served as a model in criminal courts nationwide), successfully transitioning rehabilitated offenders back into the community.

In her capacity as a guardianship judge, she handled cases involving at risk incapacitated individuals, many of whom are indigent senior citizens, in need of court intervention and protection due to either physical abuse and/or financial exploitation. During her tenure as a guardianship judge, Justice Barros was appointed by the Honorable Randall T. Eng to chair the Judicial Guardianship Roundtable for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Departments.

Justice Barros is a co-chair of the Guardianship Task Force for the Appellate Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dept. and a board member of the Latino Judges Association. She is also a member of the Brooklyn Bar Association, Puerto Rican Bar Association, New York State Women's Bar Association and Brooklyn Women's Bar Association.

The daughter of Chilean immigrants, Justice Barros was born and raised in Brooklyn, where she still resides with her husband.