

Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones

Born and raised in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, Judge Joanne D. Quiñones was appointed first appointed to the bench in 2010 by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. She served in the Criminal Courts of Bronx, Brooklyn and New York Counties until she was elevated to Acting Justice of the Supreme Court in 2017. In 2022, she was nominated by Governor Kathy Hochul and confirmed by the Senate to the New York Court of Claims. She currently sits in Kings County Supreme Court, where she handles both criminal and matrimonial matters. Prior to becoming a judge, she served for ten years as a court attorney in Supreme, Civil and Criminal Courts. She also previously served as a Staff Attorney with the Criminal Defense Division of The Legal Aid Society.

Judge Quiñones is an active member of numerous bar associations and legal organizations. She currently serves as the Presiding Member of the Judicial Section of the New York State Bar Association, the first Latina to hold the position since the section was organized in 1924. She is a Past President of the Latino Judges Association and the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and remains an active member of their boards. She also serves on the boards of the National Association of Women Judges - NY Chapter (Vice President, Second Department) and the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (Delegate). In December 2015, Judge Quiñones was appointed by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman to the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, which is tasked with promoting racial and ethnic fairness in the courts. In November 2020, she was appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks to the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics, which provides ethics advice to judges. In December 2021, she was appointed Chair of the Second Judicial District's Equal Justice Committee, which is dedicated to ensuring the fair and equitable treatment of all court users, including litigants, court staff and the general public.

A champion of mentoring programs, Judge Quiñones chairs the Franklin H. Williams Commission's Judicial Mentor Program and also the Brooklyn Bar Association's Mentorship Committee. Every year Judge Quiñones takes on scores of young people as interns and mentees, who are affectionately referred to as "Camp Quiñones." She is a frequent speaker on the issues of diversity, inclusion and elimination of bias and has presented on the issue of implicit bias to several bar and judicial organizations.

Judge Quiñones 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.