



PRESS RELEASE

New York State
Unified Court System
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Chief Administrative Judge

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New York's Commercial Division Comes of Age With the Adoption of Statewide Uniform Rules

NEW YORK—For the first time since the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court was created in New York in 1995, the Administrative Board of the Courts has established statewide uniform rules governing the jurisdiction and procedures of this court. The new rules will ensure consistency and uniformity among the nine Commercial Division courts currently in existence in the state, as well as officially establish the Commercial Division as a permanent, discrete entity within New York's court system.

Announcing the adoption of the new rules, Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye said, "From the day we opened the first Commercial Division to today, we have witnessed the amazing progression of a pilot court, dedicated solely to the hearing of commercial cases, to now having nine Commercial Division courts operating full-time throughout the state. The new rules of the Commercial Division that will soon go into effect will provide for operational uniformity throughout the state and greater predictability of practice for the commercial bar. The adoption of these rules signals a true coming of age for New York State's Commercial Division."

Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman, whose administrative order makes the uniform rules part of New York State law, stated, "The new rules take the guesswork out of litigating in the Commercial Division by defining clearly what constitutes a Commercial Division case, as well as ensuring consistency regarding rules of practice throughout the state. These rules have been keenly anticipated by both the commercial bar and the business sector and will unquestionably enhance the process of commercial litigation in New York State."

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The rules of the Commercial Division take effect January 17, 2006, and will become part of the Uniform Civil Rules of the Supreme and County Courts, as a new section 202.70. They address various aspects of commercial litigation, including motion practice, electronic discovery, pre-trial conferences, temporary restraining orders and trial scheduling, as well as outline definitive requirements for cases heard in the Commercial Division and set forth specific monetary thresholds for the nine Commercial Division courts throughout the state. A copy of the rules can be accessed from the court system's website at www.nycourts.gov/whatsnew.

Commercial Division courts currently exist in Albany, Erie, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Suffolk and Westchester Counties and the Seventh Judicial District (comprising Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Livingston, Yates, Seneca, Steuben and Cayuga Counties).

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