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Governor Cuomo Announces Appointments to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court

Honorable Rolando Acosta Designated Presiding Justice for the First Appellate Department

Nine Supreme Court Justices Elevated to Appellate Court Across New York State

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today appointed the Honorable Rolando Acosta as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division for the First Judicial Department and elevated nine elected Supreme Court Justices from across New York to the four Appellate Departments of New York State. The Justices selected today are a dynamic collection of judicial talent and experience from the trial courts, and reflect the excellence and diversity of the judicial system throughout New York State.

"These tremendously qualified jurists bring a wealth of knowledge and diverse experience to New York's Appellate Court," **Governor Cuomo said.** "I am proud to appoint these judges to their new roles where they will continue to uphold principles of law and fairness to move New York forward."

Appellate Division-First Department

Governor Cuomo designated Associate Justice Rolando Acosta to Presiding Justice of the First Department-Appellate Division, and appointed Supreme Court Justices Cynthia Kern, Peter Moulton, Jeffrey Oing and Anil Singh to fill four Associate Justice vacancies. The First Department includes New York and Bronx counties.

Honorable Rolando T. Acosta

Justice Acosta was elected New York State Supreme Court Justice in 2002 in the 1st Judicial District, and was appointed to the Appellate Division in 2008. His judicial career began in 1997 as a New York City Civil Court Judge, where he spearheaded the creation of the Harlem Community Justice Center. Prior to his judicial service, he held various posts with the Legal Aid Society, including Attorney-in-Charge of the largest civil trial office and Director of Government. Justice Acosta has also served as Deputy Commissioner for Law Enforcement for the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

In addition to his judicial responsibilities, Justice Acosta has been an active community servant and worked tirelessly to enhance the legal profession for all participants. He has served as the President of the Latino Judges Association, during which time he was a mentor and teacher with the Latino Community, and as the Vice President of the New York City Bar Association. He was selected as the 2004 Judge of the Year by the National Hispanic Bar Association, and is currently a member of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the Chief Judge's Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York, and the City Bar's Council on the Profession.

Justice Acosta was raised in the South Bronx and Washington Heights, after having emigrated from the Dominican Republic at age 14. He is a graduate of Columbia College and Columbia University School of Law. He currently serves as a Trustee of Columbia University and as a member of The Dean's Council of Columbia Law School.

Honorable Cynthia S. Kern

Justice Kern has been a jurist since 2000 when she was first elected to the New York City Civil Court. In 2008, she was designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice for the Civil Branch in New York County and was re-elected to City Civil Court in 2010. The next year she successfully ran to fill a vacancy for New York Supreme Court Justice in the First Judicial District and has continued in that capacity since her election. Prior to taking the Bench, Justice Kern was a practicing attorney for 15 years. She began as a litigation associate with the law firm of

Rosenman, Colin, Freund, Lewis & Cohen, before taking a similar position with Moses & Singer. As a civil litigator, she focused on commercial and real estate litigation. In 1992, she became the Principal Court Attorney for the Honorable Joan B. Lobis, New York Supreme Court. Justice Kern graduated from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1982 and received her law degree from New York University School of Law in 1985.

Honorable Peter H. Moulton

Justice Moulton first became a jurist when elected as a Civil Court Judge in New York County on 2003. In April 2010, Justice Moulton was appointed to be an Acting Supreme Court Justice of the Supreme Court, New York County. He subsequently was elected to the Supreme Court in 2013. As a judge, he has also held several leadership positions, including the Supervising Judge of the Civil Court, New York County from November 2010 through January 2014, and since March 2015 has served as both the Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, First Judicial District, and the Coordinating Judge of the New York City Asbestos Litigation. Prior to sitting on the bench, Justice Moulton was the Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable Leland DeGrasse, Supreme Court Justice from 1995 to 2003. He began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge Charles E. Stewart, Jr. in the Southern District of New York from 1986 to 1988, before joining the New York City Law Department's Affirmative Litigation Division as a Staff Attorney. Justice Moulton graduated from Stanford University in 1983 with a B.A. in International Relations and received his J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1986.

Honorable Jeffrey K. Oing

Justice Oing was elected to serve as a New York City Civil Court Judge in January 2004. In 2011, he was elected to the Supreme Court of the State of New York in the 1st Judicial District and assigned to the Commercial Division. Prior to taking the bench, he served as Deputy General Counsel to the New York City Council in 2002 and 2003, and also served as Deputy Director of the New York City Districting Commission. From 1993 to 2002, Justice Oing worked in the New York Supreme Court in a variety of capacities, including as Law Secretary to Justice Walter B. Tolub (2000-02), Principal Appellate Court Attorney for the First Department (1998-2000), Law Secretary to Justice Marilyn G. Diamond (1995-98), and a Principal Court Attorney (1993-95). In 1992, Justice Oing served as an Assistant Counsel to New Jersey Governor James

J. Florio. Prior to his public sector legal career, he was an associate at the New Jersey firm of Herold & Haines and began his career with the law firm of Donovan Leisure Newton & Irvine in 1990. Justice Oing graduated from Columbia College in 1986 with a B.A. in English and received his J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1989.

Honorable Anil C. Singh

Justice Singh has been a jurist since 2003, after being elected as a New York City Civil Court Judge in 2002. He was designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice in 2010 and was elected to his current role as a New York State Supreme Court Justice in the 1st Judicial District in November 2013. In April 2015, Justice Singh was appointed to the Commercial Division. Prior to taking the bench, Justice Singh clerked for the Honorable Alice Schlesinger from 1987 to 2002. Justice Singh was born in Gazipar, India in 1958 and immigrated to the United States in 1976 and upon this designation, he becomes the first Indian-American elevated to the Appellate Court in New York. He graduated from Lawrence University in 1980 with a B.A. in Political Science and History and received his J.D. from the Antioch School of Law in 1986.

Appellate Division-Second Department

The Governor designated Supreme Court Justices Linda Christopher and Angela Iannacci to fill two Associate Justice vacancies on the Appellate Division-Second Department. The Second Department comprises a ten-county downstate region that includes Kings, Queens, Richmond counties, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley.

Honorable Linda J. Christopher

Justice Christopher has been a jurist since 2002 when she began serving as Acting Justice for the Villages of Upper Nyack and Grandview. In 2005, Justice Christopher was elected to the Rockland County Family Court where she presided through 2010. While serving as a Family Court Judge, she also served as Acting Supreme Court Justice for the Integrated Domestic Violence Court from 2006 through 2010. Since 2011, Justice Christopher has been a Supreme Court Justice and currently serves as the Supervising Judge for Matrimonial Matters for the Ninth Judicial District. She began her legal career in 1980 as a law clerk for the Honorable

Orelle Weeks in Denver Juvenile Court, followed by taking an Associate position with the law offices of Jerome Trachtenberg. She also served briefly as a Hearing Examiner for Rockland County Family Court before starting her own practice in 1986. Justice Christopher was in private practice with the Law Offices of Linda Christopher from 1986 to 1992, partnered in the firm of Christopher and Draine from 1992 to 1996, before returning to her private practice until her election to Family Court in 2004. Justice Christopher graduated from the University of Colorado in 1976 majoring in Political Science before earning her J.D. from Antioch School of Law in 1980.

Honorable Angela G. Iannacci

Justice Iannacci has served as a member of the bench since 2004, when she was elected to Family Court in Nassau County. Two years later, she was elected a Supreme Court Justice in Nassau County, and currently serves as Associate Justice for the Appellate Term in the 9th and 10th Judicial Districts, a position to which she was appointed in 2009, as well as continuing her Supreme Court docket in the 10th Judicial District. Prior to taking the bench, Justice Iannacci held several legal positions including Principal Court Attorney to the Honorable Allan L. Winick, as Hearing Officer in Small Claims Assessment Review Proceedings, and fifteen years of extensive private practice with AIG, Rossano, Mose, Hirschhorn & Corleto, P.C., in Garden City, NY, and Gordon & Silber, P.C., in Manhattan concentrating in personal injury, medical malpractice and general liability matters. She also maintained a solo general practice, Angela G. Iannacci, P.C., of Great Neck, NY while serving as a Hearing Officer from 1996-2001. Additionally, she has served on the Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, the NYS Anti-Discrimination Panel, NYS Office of Court Administration's Best Practices Committee for Matrimonial Judges, the NYS Domestic Violence Task Force, and the NYS Special Commission on Fiduciary Appointments. Justice Iannacci received her B.A. from George Washington University in 1983 majoring in Political Science and Economics, and her J.D. from Pace University School of Law in 1986.

Appellate Division-Third Department

The Governor designated Supreme Court Justices Stanley Pritzker and Philip Rumsey to fill two Associate Justice vacancies on the Appellate Division-Third Department. The Third Department covers twenty-eight counties in the Eastern and Northern portions of Upstate New York, ranging

from the mid-Hudson Valley to the Canadian Border and as far west as Schuyler and Chemung counties in the Southern Tier.

Honorable Stanley L. Pritzker

Justice Pritzker has been a jurist since 2005, taking the bench as a multi-court judge for the County, Family, Surrogate, and Drug Treatment Courts in Washington County. In 2007, he was also designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice presiding over civil actions in Washington County. In 2013, Justice Pritzker was elected as a Justice of the Supreme Court for the 4th Judicial District. Prior to his judicial career, Justice Pritzker was in private practice for nearly two decades handling civil, municipal and criminal litigation matters. He also has extensive experience as a children's attorney as an advocate in juvenile delinquency, PINS, divorce, custody neglect, and abuse proceedings. Justice Pritzker began his professional career as a social worker in New York City while attending law school during the evenings. He graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1978 with a B.A. in Philosophy and Psychology and earned a Masters degree in Social Work from the same institution in 1980. He received his law degree from St. John's University Law School in 1986.

Honorable Philip R. Rumsey

Justice Rumsey was first elected as a Justice of the Supreme Court for the Sixth Judicial District in 1994 and was re-elected to the bench in 2007. Prior to becoming a jurist, Justice Rumsey practiced law for nearly two decades in both the private and public sectors, beginning as an Assistant District Attorney in Cortland County in 1976. Other public service roles that he has served include, Assistant County Attorney for Cortland County, Attorney with the Cortland Housing Authority, Staff Counsel for the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Legislative Counsel for New York State Senator James L. Seward, and Town Attorney for the Town of Cortlandville. He was also a Partner in the law firm of Ryan & Rumsey until taking the bench in 1994. Justice Rumsey has been a member of the New York Pattern Jury Instructions Committee since 2008, and served in the New York State Army National Guard from 1971 to 1977. He graduated from Hamilton College in 1971 with a B.A. in Geology and received his J.D. from Syracuse University School of Law in 1975.

Appellate Division-Fourth Department

The Governor designated Supreme Court Justice Joanne Winslow to fill an Associate Justice vacancy on the Appellate Division-Fourth Department. The Fourth Department encompasses twenty-two Upstate Counties in the Western and Central portions of the State, stretching as far north as Jefferson County.

Hon. Joanne M. Winslow

Justice Winslow was elected as a Justice of the Supreme Court for the Seventh Judicial District in 2008. She was assigned to the Matrimonial Part until 2011, before assuming her current assignment in Criminal Part, where she presides over felony indictments from arraignment through sentencing, as well as handling other legal matters. Prior to her election to the bench, Justice Winslow spent over two decades as an Assistant District Attorney with Monroe County, finishing her tenure at the DA's office as Bureau Chief for Major Felonies. Justice Winslow has been recognized for both her professional and civic service activities, receiving accolades for distinguished and dedicated service from Rochester Police Department, Monroe County District Attorney's Office, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, and Boy Scouts of America. This past December, Chief Judge Janet DiFiore named Justice Winslow to serve on the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission. She graduated from Springfield College in 1981 with a B.S. in Social Studies & Secondary Education, before receiving her J.D. from Albany Law School in 1986.

Each of the designated Justices were chosen among candidates reviewed and advanced for consideration by Judicial Screening Committees from one of the four Appellate Departments across New York. These Committee's undertook a thorough review of all applications and written material, including conversations with numerous practitioners familiar with the candidate's career and job performance. In addition, the Committee conducted in-person interviews of dozens of elected Supreme Court justice candidates from across the State, with only those applicants deemed "highly qualified" by the Committees submitted to the Governor for consideration for appointment to Appellate Division.

Under the New York State Constitution and Judiciary Law, the Governor has the authority to

appoint Presiding Justices to each Appellate Division from among those who have been elected as Justices of the Supreme Court. These appointments are not subject to Senate confirmation.

Contact the Governor's Press Office



**Contact us
by phone:**

Albany: (518) 474 - 8418

New York City: (212) 681 - 4640



**Contact us
by email:**

Press.Office@exec.ny.gov

