



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge**

**Contact:
David Bookstaver, Communications Director
Lucian Chalfen, Public Information Director
Arlene Hackel, Deputy Director
(212) 428-2500**

www.nycourts.gov/press

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Chief Administrative Judge Marks Names New Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for NYC Courts, Appoints Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives

New York – Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks today announced the appointments of Hon. George J. Silver as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts and Hon. Edwina G. Mendelson as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives. The appointments were made with the approval of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and in consultation with the Presiding Justices of the respective Departments of the Appellate Division.

In his new capacity, Judge Silver will oversee the day-to-day management of the trial courts in New York City's five boroughs. As Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, Judge Mendelson will direct a wide range of initiatives to ensure meaningful access to justice in civil and criminal matters for all New Yorkers regardless of income, background or special needs. Each will assume a role held by the Hon. Fern Fisher, who will be retiring in June and for the past eight years has served as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts and head of the court system's Access to Justice Program, which has expanded greatly in recent years.

"We are fortunate to have two such exemplary members of New York's Judiciary as part of the court system's administrative team. Judges Silver and Mendelson are highly accomplished judges, each with a proven record of effective management and a reputation for hard work, integrity and innovation. They are well-prepared to meet the demands of these critically important assignments. I am eager to work with them in our ongoing efforts to achieve and maintain excellence throughout the court system and advance the delivery of justice in New York," said Chief Administrative Judge Marks.

Hon. George J. Silver began his judicial career in January 2005, following his election to New York City's Civil Court. He served on the Civil Court's Kings County bench until April 2009 and was subsequently assigned to New York City Family Court in the Bronx. He was designated an acting Supreme Court Justice in January 2010, assigned to State Supreme Court in New York County, where he reduced the burgeoning inventory of cases in the Court's Motor Vehicle Part. He was elected to the State Supreme Court bench in November 2013, continuing his service in New York County, most recently handling matrimonial cases, supervising an inventory of medical malpractice cases tagged for early settlement and presiding over a newly created mediation part, in addition to other responsibilities.

Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Silver was a partner in Silver & Santo LLP, a law firm specializing in personal injury, maritime and commercial matters. A Hofstra Law School alumnus, he also received an M.B.A. in finance from New York University. Among his extra-judicial activities, he is co-chair of the Ethics and Professional Committee of the New York State Bar Association's Torts, Insurance Compensation Law Section and a member of the Association's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion.

Hon. Edwina G. Mendelson was appointed to the New York City Family Court in January 2003 and re-appointed to the Court in 2014. She is a former Supervising Judge of the Family Court in Queens County and served as the Administrative Judge of New York City Family Court from May 2009 to October 2015. She has been an acting Supreme Court Justice since 2015, assigned to New York County Supreme Court's Criminal Term.

Before becoming a judge, Judge Mendelson worked as a court attorney-referee in Queens County Family Court and prior to that was on the Assigned Counsel Panel in New York County's Family Court and Supreme Court. She also served as the first staff attorney for the Sanctuary for Families Center for Battered Women's Legal Services and as a Legal Aid Society attorney in Bronx County's Civil Division. Judge Mendelson is a graduate of City University of New York Law School and earned a doctorate in criminal justice from the City University of New York Graduate Center. She has lectured frequently on family law issues and was an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is a previous chair of the New York City Bar Association's Children and the Law Committee, and of the Law Guardian-Assigned Counsel Advisory Committee for the Second and Eleventh Judicial Districts.

Chief Administrative Judge Marks added, "I am sincerely grateful to Fern Fisher for her enormous contributions as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts and Director of the Access to Justice Program. Her ability to successfully – and simultaneously – manage these two extremely demanding roles has been remarkable, and a testament to her

exceptional leadership, tireless work ethic and passionate pursuit of equal justice. She has been a steady, resourceful steward of the City's trial-level courts, an innovator in the access-to-justice arena and a major figure in New York's Judiciary over the course of her distinguished 28-year tenure in the court system. I have enjoyed working closely with Judge Fisher and wish her the best in all future endeavors."

The appointments will become effective in June.

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