



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

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Administrative Judge Named for the Fourth Judicial District

New York – Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks today announced the appointment of Hon. Felix J. Catena as Administrative Judge for the Fourth Judicial District. The appointment was made with the approval of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and after consultation with Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Third Department.

In his new capacity, Judge Catena will oversee the day to day management of the trial-level courts in the Unified Court System's largest geographic district, which comprises 11 counties in Northern New York. Judge Catena succeeds Hon. Vito C. Caruso, who has been named Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside New York City.

In announcing the appointment, Judge Marks said, "Judge Catena is a highly experienced judge, well respected by his colleagues and the legal community in the Fourth Judicial District. He is a natural leader who has played a key role in the launch of several innovative court initiatives, including the Fourth Judicial District's first opioid intervention court. I am very pleased that he has agreed to assume this critical administrative post and look forward to working with him in his new role."

Chief Judge DiFiore added, “Judge Catena is a forward-thinking leader whose commitment to the fair administration of justice and high standards will be assets to the Fourth Judicial District. I am confident that the District will continue to flourish under his stewardship.”

Hon. Felix Catena began his judicial career in 1995 as a Judge in Amsterdam City Court. He was appointed in February 1999 to Montgomery County Court, to which he was elected later that year and re-elected in 2009. He was designated an Acting Surrogate and Family Court Judge in March 1999, and an Acting Supreme Court Justice in January 2001. He has served as the Fourth Judicial District’s Supervising Judge for County Courts since 2015. Over the course of his judicial tenure, he has been assigned to cases in every county of the Fourth Judicial District and conducted jury trials in ten of the District’s 11 counties. In addition to his role in the District’s first opioid intervention court, Judge Catena has helped implement other problem-solving courts in the Fourth Judicial District, including a mental health court.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Catena served as the City of Amsterdam’s Corporation Counsel from 1992 to 1994 and as an Assistant District Attorney in Montgomery County from 1990 to 1992. Previously, he worked in the U.S. Department of Labor’s Solicitor’s Office, where he prosecuted violations of U.S. labor laws.

Among his extra-judicial activities, Judge Catena serves on the New York State Advisory Committee on Evidence and the New York State Criminal Jury Instruction Committee. He has presented programs on a variety of topics for the Judicial Institute’s new judges’ and other seminars. Judge Catena is a past president of the Montgomery County Bar Association and a current member of the New York State Association of Treatment Court Professionals, Inc., the New York State County Court Judges Association and the Fulton County Bar Association.

His appointment is effective July 1, 2019.

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