



# PRESS RELEASE

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Janet DiFiore  
Chief Judge**

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## **Appellate Judges Across the State to Discuss Legal Trends and Issues at Long Island Seminar**

**Suffolk County, New York** – Nearly 60 appellate judges from around the State will convene in Suffolk County starting Monday, July 8, for the New York State Appellate Judges Seminar, a three-day line-up of informative sessions and roundtable discussions tailored to members of the State’s Court of Appeals—New York’s highest court—and each of the four departments of State Supreme Court’s Appellate Division which, combined, encompass New York’s 62 counties. Seminar topics will range from understanding and addressing implicit bias in appellate decision-making to fundamentals of forensic DNA analyses, including the challenges of mixture interpretation and genotyping theory and application.

Hon. Janet DiFiore, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York, along with all six of the Court’s Associate Judges—Hon. Jenny Rivera, Hon. Leslie E. Stein, Hon. Eugene M. Fahey, Hon. Michael J. Garcia, Hon. Rowan D. Wilson and Hon. Paul G. Feinman—will participate in the three-day event, a return after more than a decade of the joint Court of Appeals and Appellate Division seminars organized by then-Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye and part of Chief Judge DiFiore’s Excellence Initiative to promote best practices and enhance the quality of justice for New Yorkers.

Attorney Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO of Philadelphia's National Constitution Center, will deliver the keynote address on Day One. Seminar participants will have the opportunity to tour the Suffolk County Correctional Facility and attend a review of the history of four-judge panels in appellate decision-making and proposals for change, presented by Hon. Alan Scheinkman, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department.

The seminar will close with a roundtable talk titled "Dissents, Concurrences and Collegiality," facilitated by retired Court of Appeals Judges Hon. Albert Rosenblatt, Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Hon. Victoria Graffeo and Hon. Susan Read; and Hon. A. Gail Prudenti, Dean and Executive Director of Hofstra Law School's Center for Children, Families and the Law, and a former Chief Administrative Judge of the New York Courts and Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department.

Among the other speakers are faculty from Albany Law School, University at Buffalo School of Law, Columbia Law School, CUNY School of Law, Fordham Law School and Rutgers Law School, as well as Hon. Jeffrey Sutton, U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

A committee, led by Court of Appeals Judge Feinman and comprising members from all four departments of the Appellate Division—Hon. Rosalyn H. Richter, First Department; Hon. Cheryl Chambers, Second Department; Hon. Eugene Devine, Third Department; and Hon. Erin Peradotto, Fourth Department—planned the three-day program with support from Hon. Juanita Bing Newton, Dean of New York's Judicial Institute, and her staff.

"This excellent program, which offers appellate judges statewide a unique opportunity to come together and discuss emerging legal issues, is a culmination of the tireless efforts of Judge Feinman, the planning committee members and Dean Newton and her staff. I look forward to learning about the experiences of our appellate judges throughout the State and sharing our knowledge in our ongoing aim to advance the delivery of justice in New York," said Chief Judge DiFiore.

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