



# PRESS RELEASE

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

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

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

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## **Court Leadership Positions Filled in New York City**

**New York** – Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks today announced the appointments of four new administrative judges in New York City: Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan as Administrative Judge, Civil Term, New York County; Hon. Desmond A. Green as Administrative Judge for Civil and Criminal Terms, Richmond County; Hon. Tamiko Amaker as Administrative Judge for New York City Criminal Court; and Hon. Anthony Cannataro as Administrative Judge for New York City Civil Court. The appointments were made with the approval of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, in consultation with the Presiding Justices of the Appellate Division in their respective judicial departments.

“These four judges are exemplary public servants, representing a wealth of talent and expertise, and possessing the leadership, vision and collegiality for success in their critical new roles. I am pleased that they have accepted these challenging assignments and look forward to working together with them to build on the progress of Chief Judge DiFiore’s Excellence Initiative, exploring and advancing case management and other strategies to make the New York courts more efficient, effective and accessible,” said Chief Administrative Judge Marks.

Judge Kaplan will succeed Hon. George J. Silver, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts, who has been serving as New York County Supreme Court’s Administrative Judge on an interim basis; Judge Green will replace Judge Kaplan, who has been serving as Richmond County’s Administrative Judge, also on an interim basis; and Judge Amaker will succeed Hon. Melissa C. Jackson, who is stepping down as Administrative Judge to devote her time fully to trying cases.

Judge Kaplan's judicial career began with her election in 2001 to New York City Civil Court. She was assigned to New York City Criminal Court and later designated an acting Supreme Court Justice, serving in State Supreme Court's Matrimonial Division in Manhattan. Elected to the State Supreme Court in 2011, she was tapped in May 2015 to oversee the New York courts' specialized domestic violence parts. In recent months, she has been acting as Richmond County's Administrative Judge for Criminal and Civil Matters, where she instituted new procedures to better manage foreclosure cases and other matters. She first joined the court system in 1997 as a principal court attorney for Hon. Juanita Bing Newton, later serving as chief management analyst under former Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Joseph J. Traficanti. Previously, she was a senior trial counsel in the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Defense Division.

Judge Green commenced his judicial career in New York City Civil Court, upon his election in 2004. He was assigned to New York City Criminal Court and served both in Brooklyn and Staten Island. Judge Green was elevated to acting Supreme Court Justice in 2010 and elected to the State Supreme Court bench in 2013. Initially assigned to Kings County Supreme Court's Criminal Term, he has been sitting in Richmond County Supreme Court's Civil Term since February 2014. Prior to joining the bench, he was a solo practitioner, handling a range of criminal and civil matters, and before that served as an assistant district attorney in Kings County.

Judge Amaker was appointed to the New York City Criminal Court in 2010 and served as presiding judge of the Court's Domestic Violence Part in Manhattan. In 2013, she was named Supervising Judge, New York City Criminal Court, New York County, where she has been instrumental in reducing case backlogs and implementing a variety of measures to streamline operations and ensure the fair administration of justice. Prior to becoming a judge, she served as Deputy Chief of the Bureau of Child Abuse and Sex Crimes in the Bronx District Attorney's Office.

Judge Cannataro was elected to New York City Civil Court in 2012 and assigned to New York City Family Court, Kings County, where he served for three years, hearing custody, visitation and other family matters. He was subsequently assigned to Civil Court in the Bronx and presided over consumer credit, landlord-tenant and other civil cases. In 2016, he was named Supervising Judge of New York City Civil Court, New York County, with oversight responsibility for the Court's case management and other operations. Previously, he was a principal law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Lottie E. Wilkins and before that served as a principal law clerk to Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick of New York's Court of Appeals. He began his legal career in the New York City Law Department.

Judge Marks also announced that, for the foreseeable future, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Silver will serve as interim Administrative Judge for Bronx County Supreme Court, Civil Term, filling a void created by Hon. Douglas McKeon's appointment as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department. In his interim role, Judge Silver will apply his extensive expertise in case management to optimize the Court's efficiency, as he did in New York County Supreme Court's Civil Term during the past six months. A permanent Administrative Judge for Bronx Supreme Court, Civil Term, will be selected in the coming months.

Judge Marks added, "I want to express my sincere appreciation to Judges Jackson and McKeon for their outstanding leadership in their former administrative roles. I am pleased that New Yorkers will continue to benefit from their judicial skills and dedication to public service."

Additionally, Judge Marks named two new Supervising Judges in New York City Civil Court: Hon. Carol Sharpe in New York County; and Hon. Donna-Marie E. Golia in Queens County. Judge Sharpe, elected to the Court in 2014, was previously assigned to New York City Criminal Court in the Bronx. Judge Golia, who was elected to the Court in 2013, has been sitting in New York City Civil Court in Queens. Both will report to Judge Cannataro.

The appointments are effective January 1, 2018.

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