



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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Chief Administrative Judge**

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Chief Judge Janet DiFiore Administers Oath of Office to Largest-Ever Graduating Class of New York State Court Officers

NEW YORK — Chief Judge Janet DiFiore today joined other court officials at a ceremony honoring the new — and largest-ever — graduating class of New York State court officers, comprising 112 men and 40 women, several of whom are following in the footsteps of family members.

After four months of rigorous training at the Court Officers Academy, the newly minted officers have demonstrated proficiency in critical skills that include defensive tactics, basic life support and use of firearms. Members of the graduating class were also required to complete a challenging academic curriculum covering New York State Penal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, court structure, arrest procedures, counter-terrorism training, domestic violence awareness, critical incident management, among other areas. In addition, before being invited to become a court officer trainee, each recruit was made to undergo a series of medical, physical and psychological assessments, as well as an extensive background investigation.

Alluding to her previous experience both as a trial judge and as Westchester County's District Attorney, Chief Judge DiFiore told the new graduates, "Not only do I know the world of law enforcement, but I have a very special appreciation for what it means to be a New York State court officer and for the very important work you will be called upon to do. You have a critically

important — and challenging — job, not only in ensuring the safety of all those who come to our courts seeking justice, but in serving as the public face of our court system.”

The graduates will join the ranks of the courts’ statewide corps of 4,500 uniformed officers, as well as its approximately 2,000 additional non-uniformed peace officers — the second-largest law enforcement agency in New York after the NYPD. The new officers, who are being deployed in criminal, civil and family courts throughout New York City, in Long Island and Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties, will begin their court assignments on Tuesday, June 14.

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