



# **NEWS RELEASE**

**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas  
Chief Administrative Judge**

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## **Judicial Co-Chair Named to Chief Administrative Judge’s Advisory Committee on Civil Practice**

**NEW YORK**—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas today announced the appointment of Hon. John R. Higgitt as Judicial Co-Chair of the Chief Administrative Judge’s Advisory Committee on Civil Practice. Justice Higgitt, a former member of the Committee, will serve alongside longstanding Chair George F. Carpinello in helping the advisory panel, which provides input and advice on a broad range of civil practice issues, including making recommendations on potential statutory and regulatory changes.

“Justice Higgitt is a highly regarded judge whose legal acumen and leadership skills will be assets to long-serving Chair George Carpinello and the members of the Advisory Committee on Civil Practice. I am delighted he will be joining the Committee in this new capacity and eager to work with him in his role as Judicial Co-Chair,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.

“Justice Higgitt is a dedicated and talented jurist, well-versed in civil procedure, who served as a member of the Chief Administrative Judge’s Advisory Committee on Civil Practice for well over a decade. His expertise and collaborative approach make him an ideal fit for this important leadership role,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George.

“I am extremely grateful to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas for the opportunity to serve as the Committee’s co-chair with the inimitable George Carpinello. Previously, I had the fortune of serving as a Committee member with my mentors on the subject of New York practice, the late Professor David D. Siegel and Professor Patrick M. Connors. I look forward to working with the Committee in its continuing effort to improve our procedural law for the benefit of the bench and bar and the parties who turn to our court system,” said Justice Higgitt.

Since May 2021, Justice Higgitt has served as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department, which hears appeals in civil and criminal cases originating in State Supreme Court, Surrogate's Court, Family Court, and the Court of Claims in Manhattan and the Bronx. He began his judicial career upon appointment to the New York State Court of Claims in June 2018. He was then designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice in Bronx County, later elected to the County's Supreme Court bench, and subsequently appointed as an Associate Justice in the Appellate Term, First Department. Prior to his ascension to the bench, he served the Unified Court System in several capacities, including as an appellate court attorney in the Appellate Division, Second Department; as a principal law clerk in State Supreme Court in New York County and later in the Appellate Division, First Department; as a court attorney referee in State Supreme Court in the Bronx; and as a chief court attorney, both in the Appellate Term, First Department and State Supreme Court in the Bronx.

Justice Higgitt is a graduate of Albany Law School and a member of the Association of Supreme Court Justices' Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions (Civil) and New York State Bench Book Committee, as well as the New York State Supreme Court E-Filing Advisory Committee to the Chief Administrative Judge. He served on the Chief Administrative Judge's Advisory Committee on Civil Practice from 2005 to 2018.

His appointment is effective immediately.

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