



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

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New Administrative Judge Named to State Supreme Court-Civil Term in Manhattan

NEW YORK—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George today announced the appointment of Hon. Suzanne J. Adams as Administrative Judge for New York County Supreme Court’s Civil Term in Manhattan. The appointment was made with the approval of Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and after consultation with Presiding Justice Dianne T. Renwick of the Appellate Division, First Department. In her new capacity, Judge Adams will oversee the management and day-to-day operation of one of the State’s busiest courts of civil jurisdiction. She will succeed Hon. Adam Silvera, who was named Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts in September and has since been serving in both roles.

“Judge Adams is a skilled jurist, known for her fairness, sound judgment, leadership abilities, and extensive civil practice experience and understanding of court operations. She is widely admired for her numerous volunteer efforts both in promoting the diversity and inclusiveness of New York’s bench and advancing access to justice within New York’s underrepresented communities,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. “I look forward to working with her in her new role as we continue to endeavor to streamline operations and further initiatives and services to improve the delivery and quality of civil justice for the residents of New York County.”

“Both Judge Adams’ record of service on the bench and extra-judicial activities reflect her deep commitment to equal justice and a diverse, inclusive judiciary and non-judicial workforce. She is an energetic leader whose knowledge of court operations, passion for the law and justice, and high ethical standards will prove assets to the New York County Supreme Court’s Civil Term and all those served by the Court,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George.

“I am honored by this appointment and grateful to Chief Judge Wilson, Presiding Justice Renwick, Judges Zayas and St. George, and Deputy Chief Administrative Judges Edwina G. Richardson, James P. Murphy, and Adam Silvera for their confidence in my abilities to lead this prestigious Court. I look forward to working with the Unified Court System’s judicial leadership team and the New York County Supreme Court-Civil Term’s judges, non-judicial staff, and justice partners in ensuring the fair and timely resolution of civil matters before the Court and optimizing court operations and services to enhance access to justice for all, regardless of need,” said Judge Adams.

Hon. Suzanne Adams was elected to New York City Civil Court in Manhattan in November 2017 and initially assigned to the borough’s Criminal Court bench. She subsequently served as a Family Court judge in Brooklyn and in January 2020 was designated an acting Supreme Court Justice, assigned to New York County Supreme Court’s Civil Term. Prior to becoming a judge, she was a founding member and partner at McManus Ateshoglou Adams Aiello & Apostolakos, where she represented litigants in a range of civil matters and supervised associates. She began her legal career as an associate at Ahmuty Demers & McManus, then worked as a licensed associate real estate broker at Brown Harris Stevens and later was a partner at Morris Duffy Alonso & Faley, handling over 3,000 civil litigation cases over her 14-year tenure with the firm. She is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and Hofstra University School of Law.

Judge Adams strongly supports mentorship to promote interest in the legal profession and court careers, as well as a pathway to the bench for attorneys from underrepresented populations. She presently serves as a mentor for the New York County Special Masters Diversity Program and the Richard Failla LGBTQ Commission, as well as a participant in the New York State Supreme Court Judicial Internship Program for high school, college, and law school students. From 2011 to 2017, she provided pro bono legal services to the Eviction Intervention Services Clinic in Manhattan. Judge Adams presents regularly on a variety of legal topics, from asbestos litigation to pretrial mediation to women’s perspectives from the bench. She is a member of the National Italian American Bar Association and sits on the executive board of the New York County Lawyers’ Association and on the Board of Directors of the Columbian Lawyers Association, First Judicial Department, among her other affiliations. Judge Adams is the recipient of numerous awards for her pro bono work, mentorship, and exemplary judicial service.

In tribute to Judge Silvera for his tenure as Administrative Judge, Judges Zayas and St. George added, “We are grateful to Judge Silvera for his steady guidance and numerous contributions as Administrative Judge over the last three years, including his continued service in this role over the past weeks in addition to his new responsibilities as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts.”

Judge Adams’ appointment will take effect November 4, 2024.

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