



# **NEWS RELEASE**

**New York State  
Unified Court System**

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

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## **Chief Judge Names Commercial Division Advisory Council Co-Chair**

**NEW YORK**—Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson today announced the appointment of Hon. Marguerite A. Grays as co-chair of the Commercial Division Advisory Council. The Advisory Council provides ongoing guidance to the Chief Judge, Chief Administrative Judge, and Administrative Board of the Courts on all matters impacting the efficiency and efficacy of the New York State Supreme Court’s preeminent Commercial Division, a specialized part that hears complex business disputes in New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Albany, Rochester, and Buffalo. Justice Grays, who has been serving as an Advisory Council member, will now join Advisory Council Co-chair Robert L. Haig in leading this diverse group of lawyers, jurists, and in-house counsel from around the State in support of the Commercial Division’s mission and objectives.

“I am proud of the Advisory Council’s many accomplishments to date, cementing the Commercial Division’s status as an unparalleled forum for the resolution of complex business disputes. As Administrative Judge of the Queens County Supreme Court’s Civil Term and the presiding judge of its Commercial Division, Justice Grays is supremely qualified to assume this key role on the Advisory Council, working alongside Co-Chair Haig in steering the group’s ongoing work to develop and implement recommendations to further the Commercial Division’s responsiveness to the constantly evolving justice needs of the global business community,” said Chief Judge Wilson. “I welcome Justice Grays’ expert guidance and look forward to working with her and Co-Chair Haig toward that end.”

“Justice Grays is a hands-on leader whose judicial and administrative experience, combined with her commercial law expertise, problem-solving skills and collaborative approach, will serve to further the Advisory Council’s efforts,” said Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas. “I am eager to work with her and Co-Chair Haig to ensure the continued high standing of New York’s world-class Commercial Division.”

“I have every confidence that Justice Grays, in her new capacity as co-chair, will be an asset to long-serving Advisory Council Chair Bob Haig and the Council’s members, helping generate new ideas and shepherd innovations to enhance the management of these complex cases,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George. “I look ahead to the advances to come under her and Co-Chair Haig’s joint leadership of this dedicated, hardworking panel of experts.”

“It is indeed a tremendous honor and pleasure to be appointed as co-chair of the Commercial Division Advisory Council. I thank Chief Judge Wilson and Chief Administrative Judge Zayas for entrusting me with this position. I look forward to continuing the work of the Council alongside preeminent attorney Robert Haig, my co-chair and its founding member. The Council’s steadfast efforts have successfully aided the State Supreme Court’s Commercial Division to work efficiently, fairly, and expeditiously in resolving complex commercial matters,” said Justice Grays.

Justice Grays was named Administrative Judge of Queens County Supreme Court’s Civil Term in June 2020, becoming the County’s first African American administrative judge. She previously held the position of the Court’s Deputy Administrative Judge. She first sat on the New York City Civil Court in Queens, to which she was elected in 2000. She was elevated to the State Supreme Court in Queens County upon her election in 2002 and re-elected to the Court in 2016. Prior to her judicial career, she served the Court as a principal law clerk and before that worked as a law assistant in Queens Civil Court. She began her legal career as a staff attorney for Queens Legal Services Corporation.

Justice Grays is a graduate of the Hofstra University School of Law. She is a past president of the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Women Judges, the Queens County Women’s Bar Association—the first African American to hold this designation—and the Association of Black Women Attorneys, and the past co-president of the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert, among her other professional affiliations and activities.

Her appointment is effective immediately.



*Justice Marguerite Grays*