



# SISTERS-IN-LAW

## NEW YORK CHAPTER

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 3 | SEPTEMBER 2023

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HON. MARCIA HIRSCH

Dear Sisters In Law,

Welcome back! I hope that the summer months provided you with some time away to rest and relax. It was great to see many of you at our Judicial Summer Seminars in Tarrytown. Whenever we have an opportunity to meet and learn from one another, we all benefit.

As your fall calendars fill with meetings, events, programming, and trainings, please add our New York Chapter of NAWJ Fall Dinner on Thursday, October 26, 2023. It has been several years since we have gathered together to celebrate. Our event will be held at the beautiful Giando on the Water, at 400 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn at 6:00 pm. We will be honoring the women appellate judges appointed by Governor Kathy Hochul. This esteemed group includes: Court of Appeals Associate Judges Shirley Troutman and Caitlin Halligan; the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department Justice Dianne T. Renwick; recently appointed First Dept. Associate Justices Llinet Rosado and Kelly O'Neill Levy; Second Department Associate Justices: Lillian Wan, Helen Voutsinas, Janice Taylor and recently appointed Associate Justice Lourdes Ventura; Third Department Associate Justice Lisa Fisher; and Fourth Department Associate Justice, E. Jeannette Ogden. A copy of the flyer is included in this newsletter, containing all of the details, payment information, and deadlines. I hope to see you at the dinner!

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WOMEN JUDGES  
NY CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
CAROL ROBLES-ROMÁN	3
AJSCSONY	5
LATINA JUDGE OF THE YEAR	7
HISPANIC DAY PARADE OF WNY	8
DIANNE T. RENWICK	9
SCALES OF JUSTICE	11
NOTEWORTHY NEWS	13
EDITOR'S NOTE	25

Until then, I am sure that you will be busy attending various Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, Equal Justice in the Courts programming, along with Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission events and those sponsored by the various Gender Fairness Local Committees. Thank you to the judges who are hosting interns through our NAWJ-NY internship program. Your time and mentorship is so valuable to our next generation of lawyers and judges. For any of you who will be attending the NAWJ annual conference, "Setting the Pace for Justice," in Indianapolis from October 5-7, safe travels and enjoy!

Take care of yourselves, and I hope to see many of you on October 26th.

In sisterhood,  
Marcia Hirsch,  
President,  
New York Chapter

A yellow invitation card with a black border decorated with autumn leaves. The text is centered and includes the organization's name, the event title, a list of honorees, the date and time, and the location. It also provides ticket pricing and contact information for RSVPs and payments.

**The New York Chapter of the  
National Association of Women  
Judges**  
cordially invites you to our

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# FALL DINNER

*Honoring the women appointed by Governor Kathy Hochul to the  
Court of Appeals and the Appellate Divisions:*  
*Shirley Troutman, Court of Appeals*  
*Caitlin Halligan, Court of Appeals*  
*Dianne T. Renwick, First Department Presiding Justice*  
*Linét Rosado, First Department*  
*Kelly O'Neill Levy, First Department*  
*Janice Taylor, Second Department*  
*Lourdes Ventura, Second Department*  
*Helen Voutsinas, Second Department*  
*Lillian Wan, Second Department*  
*Lisa Fisher, Third Department*  
*E. Jeannette Ogden, Fourth Department*

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<b>Thursday,</b> <b>October 26,</b> <b>2023</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b> <b>Cocktails</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>Dinner</b>	<b>Giando on the</b> <b>Water</b> <b>400 Kent Avenue</b> <b>Brooklyn, NY</b>
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*Early Bird tickets are \$175 if purchased by 10/2/23.  
Tickets are \$200 between 10/3/23 and 10/11/23.  
NO tickets will be available at the door.*  
RSVP to: [mhirsch@nycourts.gov](mailto:mhirsch@nycourts.gov) or [rsermo@nycourts.gov](mailto:rsermo@nycourts.gov).  
Payments may be made by VENMO: @NAWJ-NY or  
by check payable to NAWJ-NY and mailed to our Treasurer, Debra Silber,  
184 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217.

# CAROL ROBLES-ROMÁN A WOMAN WARRIOR



On Sunday, August 20, 2023, the legal community suffered a tremendous loss when Carol Robles-Román died after a six-year battle with lung cancer at the young age of 60.

A Latina leader and champion of women's rights, Latino/a rights, educational access and good government, Carol Robles-Román was a force of nature. She was a Puerto Rican Bar Association member and board member of the Latino Judges Association Foundation. Her career spanned an exceptional breadth of experience in legal and judicial matters, government operations, higher education governance, and civil rights enforcement.

# CAROL ROBLES-ROMÁN

## A WOMAN WARRIOR

Carol served as New York City Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs and Counsel to Mayor Michael Bloomberg from 2002–2013. In that role, she oversaw 13 agencies and managed a portfolio of essential legal and compliance matters ranging from administrative tribunals to ethics, civil rights, conflicts of interest, public records, and judicial selection.

Carol previously served as New York State Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Bureau, as well as Special Inspector General for Bias Matters and Special Counsel for the New York State Unified Court System.

In addition to social justice and good government, Carol demonstrated an abiding commitment to academic excellence and opportunity. She served as a Trustee at the City University of New York from 2002 to 2016, where she chaired the Committee on Student Affairs and Special Programs and served on the Executive and Fiscal Affairs Committees, along with the Committee on Faculty, Staff and Administration.

Most recently, as General Counsel and Dean of Faculty at Hunter College, Carol served as its inhouse legal counsel. Carol supervised Hunter's Office of Legal Affairs and advised the President, college administrators, and faculty on a broad array of issues, including litigation, employment and labor law, governance, fundraising, contracts, real estate and regulatory matters, and administration and interpretation of CUNY bylaws.

Carol's leadership and contributions have been recognized by the many communities she touched. Yet, Carol's most important jobs were as a beloved spouse, mother, sister, and friend. Her two children were her proudest achievements. She is survived by the love of her life of over 40 years, her husband United States District Court Judge Nelson Román; her daughter Ariana and fiancé Phil; her son Andres; her beloved sisters Frances, Sally, Melisa, Edna; and countless friends who will forever miss her shining light, beautiful mind and energetic wit. Carol was a woman warrior.

CAROL ROBLES-ROMÁN - 1962-2023



# ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

The Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York (AJSCSONY) held their conference at Saratoga Springs from September 11 through September 13. The conference was a success with many attending including but not limited to Chief Justice Rowan Wilson, Chief Administrative Judge Joseph Zayas, and Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals, Judge Jenny Rivera.



At the dinner at Gideon Putnam in Saratoga Springs. Sitting: Judge Jenny Rivera and Chief Judge Rowan Wilson. Standing (L-R) Supreme Court Justice and AJSCSONY President elect Verna Saunders, 1st Dept. Presiding Justice Diane T. Renwick, 3rd Judicial District Supervising Judge Christina Ryba, 3rd Dept. Presiding Justice Elizabeth A. Garry, AJSCSONY President Mary Farley, Associate Justice, 1st Dept., Judge Barbara Kapnick.

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# ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK



Bronx Supreme Court Justice  
Laura Douglas, Alison Tuitt, and  
Bianka Perez visit the Saratoga  
Springs.

Court of Appeals Associate  
Justice Jenny Rivera with  
Supreme Court Justice and  
AJSCSONY 2nd VP Bianka Perez  
at the dinner.





# “LATINA JUDGE OF THE YEAR”

The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) named the Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department, “Latina Judge of the Year.” Justice Manzanet-Daniels was honored for her “exceptional leadership, innovative vision, and unwavering commitment to creating positive change with the Hispanic legal profession and community.” The award was presented to Justice Sallie Manzanet-Daniels on September 7, 2023, at the annual HBNA convention in Minneapolis.



# 21ST ANNUAL PUERTO RICAN AND HISPANIC DAY PARADE OF WNY

On Saturday, August 19th, the 21st Annual Puerto Rican and Hispanic Day Parade of WNY took place in Buffalo, New York. At the parade, the Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres, Supervising Judge of Genesee & Wyoming County Town and Village Courts, presented a sash and award to Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, the Honorable Hector D. LaSalle, for his work and commitment towards diversifying the bench throughout New York State. "In the face of adversity Judge LaSalle has stood as a beacon of light and hope. He stands as a shiny example to our Puerto Rican and Hispanic Community of scholarship and integrity" said Charles Torres the president of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Day Parade of WNY.



Judge Calvo-Torres with Presiding Justice LaSalle



# HON. DIANNE T. RENWICK: PRESIDING JUSTICE, APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST DEPARTMENT



Hon. Dianne T. Renwick is Presiding Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department. Following the historic appointment by Governor Kathy Hochul, in June 2023, she is the first woman of color and only the second woman to lead the Court since its creation in 1894.

Justice Renwick began her legal career representing indigent criminal defendants as a staff attorney for the Bronx office of the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Defense Division. After honing her skills as a trial attorney, she was invited to join the Federal Defenders where she represented criminal defendants before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

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# HON. DIANNE T. RENWICK: PRESIDING JUSTICE, APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST DEPARTMENT

Justice Renwick's judicial career began when she was appointed a New York City Housing Court Judge in 1997. Later that year, she was elected as a Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York. In 2001, she was elected as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, in Bronx County. In 2008, Governor David Patterson appointed Justice Renwick to the Appellate Division, First Department, making her the first woman of color, and the fourth woman, ever to join the Court. She served as an Associate Justice until March 2023, when she became Acting Presiding Justice, serving in that capacity until her appointment as Presiding Justice.

As a jurist committed to improving the courts and legal profession, Justice Renwick also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of the New York Courts, the Practicing Law Institute, and the New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. During her tenure as an Associate Justice, Justice Renwick was Chair of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board from 2009 to 2012, and inaugural Chair of the Anti-Bias Committee of the Appellate Division, First Department from 2020 to 2023. As Chair of the Anti-Bias Committee, Justice Renwick oversaw the historic installation of the sculpture, NOW, which for the first time put the figure of a woman on equal footing with the heretofore uniformly male sculptures of ancient lawgivers that adorn the courthouse roof.

Justice Renwick is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Jewish Lawyers Guild's Golda Meir Memorial Award, the Judges & Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert's Leadership Achievement Award, the Westchester Black Bar Association's Constance Baker Motley Award, and the Bronx County Bar Association's Judicial Recognition Award, to name a few.

A proud graduate of Cornell University and The Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, Justice Renwick was named Cardozo School of Law's Alumna of the Year in 2010 and had the honor of delivering the commencement address for the school's 35th graduation ceremony in 2013. She is a member of Cardozo School of Law's Board of Overseers and remains involved in the Cardozo community through organizations like the BALLSA (Black Asian Latino Law Students Association) Alumni Group. In addition, Justice Renwick, has served on Cornell University President's Council of Cornell Women, from 2006 to 2016, and as an Emeritus Member since 2016.

Justice Renwick is a lifelong resident of the Bronx. She was educated in the Bronx through high school at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula. Presiding Justice Renwick has an unshakable commitment to civic education and advancing issues of the bench, bar, and community. She has taught trial advocacy programs, mentors students, and serves on legal, educational and cultural boards and committees, including as longtime member of the Board of Trustees of the New York Botanical Garden. She remains committed to community service, particularly in the Bronx, where she resides with her family.

# 2023 SCALES OF JUSTICE ACADEMY, INC. JULY 10- 21, 2023



The 14th annual Scales of Justice Academy (SJA) session commenced on July 10, 2023 and returned in person at the Fordham University School of Law in Manhattan.

Due to the pandemic the SJA was conducted via Zoom on a Virtual platform in 2021 and a Hybrid system was utilized in 2022. Both sessions were successful legal educational programs attended by a total of forty-five (45) outstanding yet underserved female high school students. This current summer academy class schedule shall include, among others, the legal topics of Criminal Law, Domestic Relations Law, The American Jury System, Real Estate Law, Intellectual Property Law, Human Trafficking, Immigration law, Role of the District Attorney, Appellate procedures, Landlord Tenant Law, Domestic Violence, and the NYS Court System.

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# 2023 SCALES OF JUSTICE ACADEMY, INC.

## JULY 10- 21, 2023

The Hon. Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and of the State of New York will welcome the incoming class of female high school academy students and conduct two (2) substantive lectures. Clinical Professor of Law Leah Hill has continued to be an integral part of the SJA and will address the students. Introductory remarks will be given by the Hon. La Tia W. Martin, Bronx Supreme Court Supervising Judge of the Matrimonial Part and Dafina Cobbinah-Pinckney, Esq. Guest lecturers include, among others: the Hon. Shirley Troutman and the Hon. Jenny Rivera Associate Judges of the NYS Court of Appeals, the Hon. Troy Webber and the Hon. Bahaati Pitt Associate Justices of the Appellate Division, First Department, Bronx County District Attorney the Hon. Darcel Clark. Our volunteer faculty members represent jurists from all levels of the NYS judiciary, law school deans, law school professors, public and private sector attorneys, a district attorney, state assemblywoman, and elected officials. The SJA was established in 2009 as a no fee precollege legal preparatory program for female high school students which conjoins course work of substantive legal topics and moot court sessions with leadership training skills.

To date over seven hundred (700) dedicated and well deserved young women from diverse backgrounds have successfully completed the training and support necessary as guidance through the "pipeline" entrance into law school. We have followed the progress of our graduates and witnessed them discover their potential and positive contributions. Many of the SJA students are either enrolled in or graduated from undergraduate colleges, universities and law schools throughout the nation. We are also proud to acknowledge that many SJA graduates are currently members of the legal profession.

For more [information - scalesofjusticenyc@gmail.com](mailto:scalesofjusticenyc@gmail.com)

# NOTEWORTHY NEWS

## First Department:

- Congratulations to **Hon. Llinet Rosado**, NAWJ-NY Vice President, First Department, **Hon. Kelly O'Neill-Levy** and **Hon. Lourdes Ventura** who were appointed to the Appellate Division by Governor Kathy Hochul in August 2023.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Cheryl J. Gonzales** on her election as president of Judicial Friends. Congratulations also to Judicial Friends newly elected officers: Hon. Paul Wooten (1st VP), **Hon. Christel F. Garland** (2nd VP), **Hon. Lumarie Maldonado Cruz** (Treasurer) and **Hon. Lisa Headley** (Secretary).

## Second Department:

- Congratulations to **Hon. Helen Voutsinas**, Associate Judge of the Appellate Division, Second Department who was presented with the Judiciary Excellence Award at the Hellenic Lawyers Association Judiciary Night on June 13, 2023.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Deborah Kaplan**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts, **Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez**, Administrative Judge, Civil Term, 12th Judicial District, and Hon. Adam Silvera, Administrative Judge, Civil Term, 1st Judicial District, who were honored at the 44th Annual Gala of the Jewish Lawyers Guild on June 22, 2023.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones**, NAWJ-NY Vice President, Second Department, on 10+ years of Camp Quiñones.
- Congratulations to **Hon. Lourdes Ventura**, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, who was honored by the South Asian Indo-Caribbean Bar Association at their Fifth Anniversary Gala on September 7, 2023.



Members of the Appellate Division, Second Department at the Hellenic Lawyers Association Judiciary Night 2023 (l-r): George N. Zapantis, Esq, President of Hellenic Lawyers Association, Hon. Lillian Wan, Hon. Mark Dillon, Presiding Justice Hon. Hector D. LaSalle, Hon. Reynaldo Rivera, Hon. Helen Voutsinas, Hon. Cheryl Chambers, Hon. Paul Wooten, Hon. Janice Taylor, Hon. Betsy Barros; and Hon. Linda Christopher

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)



Judges Myrna Socorro, Beth Beller, and Patsy Gouldbourne at the July 2023 Judicial Seminar.

Supreme Court Justices Llinét Rosado; Wilma Guzman; and Connie Mallafre-Melendez, Appellate Term 2nd Dept. Associate Justice Lourdes Ventura, and Court of Claims Judge Joanne Quiñones at the July 2023 Judicial Seminar.





## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)



Honorees at Jewish Lawyers Guild Dinner: Hon. Adam Silvera, Hon. Doris Gonzalez and Hon. Deborah Kaplan together with JLG President Ronald Katter

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)



Camp Quiñones - Congratulations on 10+ years!





## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)



Hon. Llinét M. Rosado and Hon. Kelly A O'Neill Levy, Associate Justices, Appellate Division, First Department, appointed by Governor Hochul this past summer, at their first sitting on September 6, 2023.



## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)



Hon. Lourdes M. Ventura with her law clerks Jasmine I. Valle, Esq. (r.) and Carolina Frias, Esq. (l.) at the SAICBA-Q Gala

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

THE LATINO JUDGES ASSOCIATION

in collaboration with  
THE JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

# LJA HISTORY PROJECT:

A Documentary Chronicling  
The History of Latino Judges  
in New York State



VIRTUAL SCREENING  
IN CELEBRATION OF  
**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

**Friday, September 15, 2023**

**6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**RSVP to [smanzane@nycourts.gov](mailto:smanzane@nycourts.gov)**

Link will be distributed morning of screening.

Co-Sponsor



**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*of the* **NEW YORK COURTS**



**NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)**



**Richmond County Presents  
Hispanic Heritage Celebration  
Keynote Speaker**

**Chief Administrative Judge**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas**

**Remarks by:**

**First DCAJ Norman St. George**

**DCAJ-JI Richardson-Mendelson**

**September 29, 2023**

**1:00 pm to 2:15 pm**

**26 Central Ave., SI, NY 10301-Central Jury**

**Room**

**Lunch Provided- [Click Here to Register](#)**





## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)



Judicial Friends celebrating the investiture of Chief Judge Wilson

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

### Third Department:

- Congratulations to the **Hon. Christina Ryba** on her appointment as Supervising Judge of the Supreme Courts for the 3rd Judicial District which encompasses Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster counties.



The Honorable Christina L. Ryba was elected by the people in the third judicial district to serve as Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York in 2015. Prior to beginning her term in 2016, she held various positions in the court system for the Office of Court Administration (OCA) and in the NYS Supreme Court Third Department Appellate Division including Special Projects Counsel to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside New York City and Special Projects Counsel to the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Third Department. Before working with the judiciary, Judge Ryba was an associate at Nixon Peabody where she practiced Labor/Employment Law and Commercial Litigation. She also served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of New York Litigation Bureau. Judge Ryba's additional public service includes appointments first as General Counsel and then as Deputy Director for the City of Albany Community Development Agency. She originally began her career in public service with the City of Albany Corporation Counsel's office.

Justice Ryba is the first African American woman elected to Supreme Court in the 3rd JD.

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)

### **Fourth Department:**

- Congratulations to **Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas**, who was appointed Administrative Judge for the Fifth Judicial District in June 2023.
- On September 21, 2023, the Eighth Judicial District held *A Conversation with the Descendants of Plessy v. Ferguson*, which was moderated by the **Hon. Shirley Troutman**.

Hon. Kevin M. Carter, Administrative Judge, 8th Judicial District  
The 8th Judicial District Diversity Steering Committee  
The New York State Unified Court Systems Office of Diversity and Inclusion  
&  
The Historical Society of the New York Courts

*Presents a celebration of*  
**BLACK HISTORY**

**A CONVERSATION WITH THE DESCENDANTS OF  
PLESSY v. FERGUSON**

*1896 landmark US Supreme Court case that upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation*

Moderated by our very own Honorable Shirley Troutman  
Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals

With Remarks from Honorable Albert M. Rosenblatt  
Retired Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals

*Co-Sponsored by*  
The Bar Association of Erie County  
The Minority Bar Association of WNY, Inc.  
The Women's Bar Association of the State of N.Y., WNY Chapter

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
Thursday, September 21, 2023  
12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
Ceremonial Courtroom - 2nd Floor  
92 Franklin Street, Buffalo, N.Y.

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON  
LINK TO BE PROVIDED

**BLACK RESISTANCE**  
*THEN AND NOW*



## NOTEWORTHY NEWS (CONTINUED)



Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas recently announced the appointment of Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas as Administrative Judge for the Fifth Judicial District. The appointment was made with the approval of Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and after consultation with Hon. Gerald J. Whalen, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

In her new capacity, Judge Karalunas will oversee the daily operations of the trial-level courts in the Fifth Judicial District, which encompasses Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego counties in Central New York. She is filling a vacancy left by Judge James P. Murphy, who earlier this month was named Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside New York City. Judge Karalunas was first elected to the Onondaga County Supreme Court bench in 2002 and re-elected in 2016, handling a varied, complex civil caseload including commercial, personal injury, medical malpractice, intellectual property and environmental matters. She has served as the Presiding Justice of the County's Supreme Court-Commercial Division since 2007. Prior to her ascension to the bench, she was a partner at Bond, Schoeneck & King, having first joined the Syracuse law firm in 1983. She began her legal career as a law clerk to Chief Judge Howard G. Munson of the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of New York. She is a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law, where she was a member of the International Law Review, Moot Court and Justinian Honor Society.

Among her numerous extra-judicial activities, Judge Karalunas is a member of various bar associations, a former chair of the Fifth Judicial District's Women in the Courts Committee, a past president of the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, a past president of the Central New York Women's Bar Association and a former presiding member of the New York State Bar Association's Judicial Section. Additionally, she is an adjunct professor at Syracuse University College of Law, where she teaches New York Civil Practice, and a member of the Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions. Her appointment is effective July 10, 2023.

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Sisters In Law,

I hope you are enjoying the beginning of our fall season. I would like to congratulate all of the women judges on their administrative and appellate division appointments. I would also like to congratulate all of the women judges who were recently elected to leadership positions. You are worthy of the new positions, and I am confident that you will serve your respective roles exceptionally well. As always, thank you all for your contributions to this newsletter.

With gratitude,

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden,  
NAWJ-NY Co-editor