

# THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023



THE FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS JUDICIAL COMMISSION  
IS PLEASED TO PARTNER WITH THE LATINO JUDGES  
ASSOCIATION TO PRESENT

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BECOMING A NEW YORK CITY FAMILY COURT JUDGE

Time: 5:30PM-8PM

New York County Supreme Court  
60 Centre Street ~ Room 300 ~ New York



OTHER CO-SPONSORS INCLUDE:

Asian American Judges Association of New York  
Bronx Family Court Bar Association  
Judicial Friends Association  
New York Association of Lesbian and Gay Judges  
New York City Family Court Judges Association  
The Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission



New York City Family Court  
Judges Association



New York Association of Lesbian and Gay Judges



# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BECOMING A JUDGE



Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission



Latino Judges Association

**Thursday, April 20, 2023**

New York County Supreme Court

• 60 Centre Street, New York, NY • 5:30pm - 8:00pm •

2 CLE Credits (2 credits Professional Practice)

Agenda:	
5:00-5:30	<b>Registration/Reception</b>
5:30 - 5:40	<b>Welcome/Introduction</b> <b>Hon. Troy K. Webber</b> , Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department, Co-Chair of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission  <b>Hon. Richard Rivera</b> , Acting Supreme Court Justice and Supervising Judge of the Family Court, Third Judicial District, Co-Chair of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission
5:40 - 5:50	<b>Family Court Video</b>
5:50 - 6:00	<b>Remarks</b> <b>Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson</b> , Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives <b>Hon. Anne-Marie Jolly</b> , Administrative Judge for the New York City Family Court
6:00 - 6:50	<b>The Application Process for New York City Family Court</b> <u><b>Moderator:</b></u> <b>Hon. Shahabuddeen A. Ally</b> , Supervising Judge, New York County Civil Court, FHW Commissioner, President, Asian American Judges Association of New York  <u><b>Panelists:</b></u> <b>Hon. George Silver</b> , Chair, Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary <b>Ayanna Sorett, Esq.</b> , Executive Director, Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary
6:50 - 7:00	<b>BREAK</b>
12:30 - 1:30	<b>The Screening Committee and Interview Process for Appointment for New York City Family Court</b> <u><b>Moderator:</b></u> <b>Hon. Llinét M. Rosado</b> , Justice, Supreme Court, Bronx County, FHW Commissioner <u><b>Panelists:</b></u> <b>Henry T. Berger, Esq.</b> , Former Special Counsel and Advisor to Mayor Bill de Blasio <b>Hon. Karen Lupuloff</b> , Supervising Judge, New York County Family Court <b>Hon. Nisha Menon</b> , Judge, New York City Family Court, Kings County <b>Hon. Gigi Parris</b> , Judge, New York City Family Court, Bronx County
7:50 - 8:00	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>

OTHER CO-SPONSORS INCLUDE:

ASIAN AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, BRONX FAMILY COURT BAR ASSOCIATION, JUDICIAL FRIENDS ASSOCIATION, NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF LESBIAN AND GAY JUDGES, NEW YORK CITY FAMILY COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION, AND THE RICHARD C. FAILLA LGBTQ COMMISSION.



**New York City Family Court  
Judges Association**

**New York Association of Lesbian and Gay Judges**

*Comments or questions may be submitted to the  
Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission at:  
[FHWilliams@nycourts.gov](mailto:FHWilliams@nycourts.gov).*



**Everything You Need to  
Know About Becoming a  
New York City Family Court Judge**

**BIOGRAPHIES**

## **Welcome/Introduction**

### **Hon. Troy K. Webber**

Associate Judge, Appellate Division, First Department  
Co-Chair, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission

### **Hon. Richard Rivera**

Acting Supreme Court Justice and Supervising Judge  
of the Family Court, Third Judicial District  
Co-Chair, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission



**HONORABLE TROY K. WEBBER** is a graduate of New York University School of Law. She has served as Assistant District Attorney in New York County; senior associate at medium- sized law firm; Deputy Bureau Chief at New York City Corporation Counsel; and Law Assistant to a State Supreme Court Justice.

Justice Webber was elected to the Civil Court, countywide in November 1993. She was thereafter elected to Supreme Court from New York County in November 2002 and assigned to Bronx Supreme Court, Criminal Division. Appointed Acting Surrogate New York County in January 2009. In February 2016, Justice Webber was appointed to the Appellate Division First Department.

Justice Webber is an adjunct professor at Monroe College. She is a member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the Association of Woman Judges, The Judicial Friends, the New York County Lawyers Association as well as serves as Co-Chair of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission. She serves on the New York State Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics, the Advisory Committee on Criminal

Law and Procedure and the National Courts and Sciences Institute Covid 19 Initiative. She also serves on the Alumni Board of Directors for New York University School of Law.

Justice Webber mentors students who attend NYU Law School, the City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice as well as Fordham University School of law. She has also participated in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Program which encourages Bronx middle and high school students to pursue a legal career, as well as the moot court programs sponsored by New York University School of Law and New York Law School.



**HONORABLE RICHARD RIVERA** is Acting Supreme Court Justice, 3rd J.D., and Supervising Family Court Judge, 3rd J.D. Judge Rivera is a graduate of Colgate University and Albany Law School. His legal career began as an associate counsel for the Law Office of Gaspar M. Castillo, Esq., where he represented litigants in local, city and town courts, handling criminal matters, traffic violations and appeals. It wasn't until he became staff counsel for the Albany Law School Family Violence Clinic that his career in Family Court began. As staff counsel, Judge Rivera represented victims of domestic violence with all matters pertaining to orders of protection, custody, and support. Judge Rivera also served as an Attorney for Children in both Albany and Rensselaer counties; Assistant Conflict Defender representing litigants in family and criminal courts; Assistant County Attorney, prosecuting Juvenile Delinquents and PINS and as a Support Magistrate.

In November 2014, Judge Rivera was elected to a 10-year term in Albany County Family Court, becoming the first Person of Color elected to a Countywide Bench and the first Latino elected to any Bench in the entire Third Judicial District. On February 27, 2017, Judge Rivera was appointed to preside over the newly created Domestic Violence Part at the Albany County Family Court. Judge Rivera also presides over the Albany County Youth Part since its creation in 2018 pursuant to the Raise the Age legislation.

On January 1, 2019, Judge Rivera was designated Acting Supreme Court Justice for the 3rd Judicial District and was named as the first Supervising Judge for Domestic Violence Courts and Mentor Courts in the District. In 2019, Judge Rivera was also appointed to the Board of Advisors of the National Consortium on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. Effective January 1, 2022, Judge Rivera was appointed Supervising Family Court Judge to the 3rd Judicial District becoming the first person of color to hold that position.

On February 22, 2022, NYS Chief Judge Janet DiFiore appointed Judge Rivera, Co-Chair of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, established to develop programs to improve the perception of fairness within the Court system and to ensure equal justice in New York State.

Judge Rivera is a member of the New York State Bar Association, Albany County Bar Association, the Capital District Black and Hispanic Bar Association, the Puerto Rican Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association, the Latino Judges Association, the Judicial Friends, and the New York State Family Court Judges Association.

## **Remarks**

**Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson**

Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives

**Hon. Anne-Marie Jolly**

Administrative Judge of the New York City Family Court





**HONORABLE EDWINA G. RICHARDSON-MENDELSON** was appointed Deputy Chief Administrative Judge in 2017 to head the New York State Unified Court System's *Office for Justice Initiatives* (OJI). The OJI is tasked with ensuring meaningful access to justice for all New Yorkers in civil, criminal, and family courts, regardless of income, background, or disability. To serve this mission, the *Office for Justice Initiatives* administers Help Centers, pro bono attorneys and other volunteer programs, self-help services, and many other resources designed to serve unrepresented court users, including resources to assist those navigating virtual court operations.

Additionally, Judge Richardson-Mendelson leads the *Equal Justice in Courts Initiative*, implementing the recommendations contained in Special Adviser on Equal Justice Jeh Johnson's October 2020 report examining racial bias in the state court system, as well as the November 2020 recommendations made by the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts to enhance gender fairness in the New York State courts.

Judge Richardson-Mendelson also directs several juvenile and family justice initiatives, including the New York State Unified Court System's *Child Welfare Court Improvement Project* and the ongoing implementation of the seminal law raising the age of criminal responsibility in New York State. Additionally, she oversees the state's more than 300 problem-solving and accountability courts, including groundbreaking opioid courts, drug courts/judicial diversion parts, veterans' treatment courts, mental health courts, human trafficking intervention courts, domestic violence courts, integrated domestic violence courts, young adult parts, juvenile treatment courts, community courts, and impaired driving courts. Each model court has the advantage of specially trained judges and staff, dedicated dockets, intensive judicial monitoring, and coordination with outside services and agencies.

Judge Richardson-Mendelson was appointed to the Court of Claims in 2017 and remains active on that bench, while also serving in the Supreme Court Criminal Term, New York County. Previously, she presided over New York County Supreme Court's Youth Part, hearing cases of youth criminally charged as adults.

Judge Richardson-Mendelson first joined the court system as a Court Attorney-Referee in Queens County Family Court, after representing clients in New York City Housing Court, Family Court, and Supreme Court. She later became a Family Court Judge in 2003, the Queens County Supervising Family Court Judge in 2008, and a year later, was elevated to Administrative Judge of all New York City Family Courts.

Judge Richardson-Mendelson is a graduate of CUNY Law School, whose motto is "Law in the Service of Human Needs". She also holds a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the City University of New York Graduate Center and has been an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Hofstra Law School.

She maintains active membership and leadership positions in New York bar associations and serves on several court committees which advance both professional development and system improvement in the delivery and quality of justice services, including the Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York's Courts and its Pandemic Practices Working Group. She also lectures across the state and country on New York's nation leading access to equal justice practices and protocols.



**HONORABLE ANNE-MARIE JOLLY** serves as the Administrative Judge of the New York City Family Court. Immediately prior to her appointment as Administrative Judge, Judge Jolly served for six years as the Deputy Administrative Judge of the New York City Family Court. She was first appointed to the Family Court judicial bench in September 2010 and has continuously served as a trial judge, first in Bronx County and most recently in Queens County.

Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Jolly served as counsel to the Administrative Judge of the New York City Family Court. Before serving as counsel to the Administrative Judge, Judge Jolly served for over five years as a court attorney referee in Queens County Family Court where she presided over child protective hearings, child custody and visitation matters, termination of parental rights proceedings and adoptions. Before taking the bench, Judge Jolly was a trial attorney with the Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Division, where she represented children and youth in Family Court cases.

Judge Jolly developed her administrative expertise as a result of her many management appointments including several supervising attorney positions with the Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Division which culminated in her appointment as the deputy attorney-in-charge in both the Queens and Brooklyn offices. In 2005, she was selected to be the deputy chief of the Family Court of the City of New York. She was later appointed counsel to the Office of Court Administration's Office of Family Services (subsequently renamed the Office of Matrimonial and Family Law Study and Reform) which explored the provision of services to families involved in custody matters in both Supreme and Family Courts. Thereafter, Judge Jolly served as counsel to the New York State Judicial Institute and as an assistant to the chief magistrate of the New York City Family Courts. She then was appointed deputy chief magistrate for the New York City Family Court. As counsel to the New York State Judicial Institute, Judge Jolly assisted in the development and implementation of educational programs provided to the New York State judiciary, judicial & quasi-judicial hearing officers, support magistrates and court attorneys.

Judge Jolly chairs the statewide Advisory Committee on Attorneys for Children, is a member of the New York State Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee and has also served as a New York State Judicial Institute faculty trainer of Family Court judges, Family Court referees and court attorneys. She has presented at training programs sponsored by The Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Division, the Queens County chapter of the National Association of Women Judges, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services' Adoption Forum, and various other agencies including the New York City Administration for Children's Services.

Judge Jolly earned a Bachelor's degree from Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts, and a J.D. from Albany Law School of Union University.

**Application Process for Appointment  
to New York City Family Court**

Moderator

**Hon. Shahabuddeen A. Ally**

Supervising Judge of the New York County Civil Court  
FHW Commissioner

Panelists:

**Hon. George Silver**

Chair

Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary

**Ayanna Sorett, Esq.**

Executive Director

Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary



**HONORABLE SHAHABUDEEN A. ALLY** is an elected Civil Court Judge in New York County. Judge Ally was elected in November 2018. Judge Ally is the only candidate to ever be reported as "Most Highly Qualified" from three separate screening panels in one year. Judge Ally is the first Muslim male Judge elected in New York State history! Judge Ally has been appointed as Supervising Judge to New York County Civil Court – making him the first South Asian Supervising Judge in New York State history. Judge Ally began his judicial career in the Bronx Criminal Court.

Judge Ally is a member of the 2001 graduating class of Hofstra University School of Law. Judge Ally began his legal career as a staff attorney with the New York City Administration for Children's Services. As a staff attorney, Judge Ally litigated cases involving child abuse and neglect. Judge Ally appeared as lead counsel on hundreds of cases and at various stages of litigation including settlement conferences, discovery, compliance conferences, and trial.

Judge Ally then went to work for the New York City Law Department as an Assistant Corporation Counsel. Judge Ally was assigned to the Family Law bureau where he prosecuted juvenile delinquency matters. Judge Ally started in the Bronx Division where he prosecuted a range of cases from misdemeanors to serious felony cases. Judge Ally's practice grew when he was appointed to the sex crimes prosecution unit, where he was solely responsible for the prosecution of all sex crimes in New York County.

For a decade prior to his time on the bench, Judge Ally operated his own law practice specializing in Family and Criminal law. Judge Ally was a member of the 18b panel where he provided indigent legal services to litigants in Family, Criminal and Supreme courts.

Judge Ally is a firm believer in public service and community service. Judge Ally was the Chairman of Manhattan Community Board 12, Washington Heights and Inwood. Judge Ally was appointed by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, as a Commissioner to the Franklin H. Williams Commission to address racial equality in the court system. Judge Ally currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Armory Foundation, Row New York and the Fort Tryon Park Trust.

Judge Ally resides in Upper Manhattan with his wife, a Family Court Judge, his son and puppy.



**HONORABLE GEORGE J. SILVER** created and runs a mediation and arbitration company, Silverstar Mediation and Arbitration LLC. He previously served as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts, where he handled the daily operations of trial courts in the city and oversaw upwards of 7,550 judicial and non-judicial employees. In this capacity, Judge Silver created an Alternative Dispute Resolution program that encourages presumptive mediation in all cases litigated within the city, and he developed blockbuster settlement conferences throughout the city, resulting in the reduction of backlogs through early resolution. He also handled malpractice matters and was in charge of the litigation involving the Child Victims Act cases.

Judge Silver is a native Bronxite attending public schools from elementary school until his graduation from Christopher Columbus High School. After graduation, Judge Silver attended New York University where he was conferred a M.S. in Accounting and Management. He attended Hofstra University School of Law where he was conferred a J.D. in 1983. Judge Silver was also conferred a M.B.A. in Finance from New York University Stern Graduate School of Business in 1992. At the time, he was also working full time as in-house counsel for five private bus companies. Thereafter, he joined Fields & Rosen, a firm specializing in maritime law, commercial and real estate matters and personal injury actions, in addition to handling matters for the bus companies. After several years, Judge Silver became an equity partner in the firm whose name was changed to Fields, Silver & Santo, L.L.P. and ultimately Silver & Santo, L.L.P.

In 2004, Judge Silver was elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York being initially assigned to Civil Court, Kings County, until he was re-assigned in April 2009 to Family Court, Bronx County where he presided over juvenile delinquency matters. In January 2010, Judge Silver was appointed a Supreme Court Justice by designation and assigned to Supreme Court, New York County where he presided over the approximately two thousand motor vehicle cases pending in New York County. From April 2011 until October 5, 2015, Judge Silver presided over the Trial Assignment Part in Supreme Court, New York County. In 2012, Justice Silver was also asked to handle potential, early settlement of Medical Malpractice Cases as part of a specialized grant program. In 2012, Judge Silver was elected to the Supreme Court of the State of New York. In October 2015 Justice Silver was asked to preside over a newly created Mediation Part called J-Med. In addition to his other assignments-the Medical Malpractice Early Settlement Part and an IAS Part handling general matters; and, in 2016, a limited Matrimonial caseload also was assigned to Judge Silver.

Judge Silver is also involved in many community-based organizations and bar associations including the NAACP, the International Association of Gay and Lesbian Judges and the Jewish Lawyers Guild and is also a member of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion of the New York State Bar Association.



**AYANNA SORETT, ESQ.** serves as the Executive Director of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary. Most recently, she was a senior fellow in the Center for Justice at Columbia University, where she advised center leadership and staff on various policy and programming initiatives around criminal justice reform, including restorative justice practices. Sorett is also an adjunct professor at Columbia University, where she teaches an undergraduate and graduate-level course on criminal justice-related topics.

Prior to joining the faculty at Columbia, Sorett served as an assistant district attorney with the New York County District Attorney's Office. In her more than 15 years as a prosecutor, Sorett worked on a wide variety of criminal cases, handling every aspect of prosecution from pre-arrest investigations to sentencing and post-conviction litigation. While at the DA's office, she developed specialized expertise working on everything from complex financial crimes, including securities fraud and money laundering, to convening various stakeholders and facilitating community-based meetings to advance policy, programs, and initiatives that addressed crime-related issues and supported local communities. Sorett also worked on violent felony offenses and large-scale conspiracy cases, including gun trafficking and homicides.

In addition to investigating and litigating cases, Sorett assisted in a variety of administrative roles in the DA's office, including supervising junior assistants in case intake, leading teams of attorneys in focused prosecutions, leading the office's college intern program, and serving as a member of the office's permanent hiring committee.

**The Screening Committee and Interview Process  
for Appointment for New York City Family Court**

Moderator:

**Hon. Llinét M. Rosado**

Justice, Supreme Court, Bronx County  
FHW Commissioner

Panelists:

**Henry Berger, Esq.**

Former Special Counsel and Advisor to Mayor Bill de Blasio

**Hon. Karen Lupuloff**

Supervising Judge, New York County Family Court

**Hon. Nisha Menon**

Judge, New York City Family Court, Kings County

**Hon. Gigi Parris**

Judge, New York City Family Court, Bronx County



**HONORABLE LLINÉT ROSADO** graduated from SUNY Albany and then obtained her Juris Doctor from Albany Law School in 1997, after which, she began her career at the Criminal Defense Division of the Legal Aid Society as a staff attorney. She subsequently worked at the Children Law's Center representing children. Justice Rosado was also a court attorney to several judges. In 1999, Justice Rosado became an adjunct professor at Hostos Community College where she taught various law courses until the Spring of 2021.

On November 6, 2012, Justice Rosado was elected to the Civil Court, Bronx County and assigned to Bronx Family Court where she handled custody; visitation; guardianship; and family offense matters. In 2016, she was transferred to Bronx Supreme Court, Civil Term and designated a hybrid judge allowing her to preside over consumer credit cases in Civil Court and matrimonial actions in Supreme Court, Civil Term. On January 6, 2017, she was designated Acting Supreme Court Justice and presided over matrimonial cases, personal injury actions, and mental health proceedings. From 2016 until 2018, Justice Rosado presided over arraignments in Bronx Criminal Court. On November 6, 2018, she was elected Justice of Supreme Court of State of New York. In 2019, Justice Rosado presided over the NYCHA Part where she handled all the personal injury actions against NYCHA. She also handled Nuisance and Abatement actions; Unsafe Building proceedings; assisted outpatient treatment cases; and hospital hearings. In 2020, she was assigned to an IAS part and designated a Children's Victim Act Justice for Bronx County. In 2021, Justice Rosado was assigned to the Integrated Domestic Violence Part in Supreme Court, Criminal Term. Justice Rosado also lectures at the Judicial Institute.

Justice Rosado, a lifelong community servant, continues to serve her community by speaking to local schools regarding the law as well as participating in programs and panels focused on enlightening the community. She is a frequent lecturer for the Scales of Justice Academy, a program that provides under-served high school young women with the skills necessary to succeed in life and in law school, if they so desire. She coordinates Read Across America events and Career days for the local elementary schools. She has served as a coach to elementary and high school mock trial competitions leading the St. Angela Merici 8th graders to the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial competition championships twice. She routinely accepts invitations to be the keynote speaker at graduations in the local schools and organizations and trade schools like the Police Athletic League's College Access Program and Code One Emergency Medical Technician Academy, to name a few. Judge Rosado accepts interns from high schools, colleges and law schools. On June 17, 2017, Youth Leaders on the Move honored Justice Rosado for her outstanding achievements and continuous contributions to the success of the youth. On June 26, 2018, Judge Rosado received an award from Westchester Square Academy for her time and dedication to the student body. On June 7, 2019, Justice Rosado, with the consent of the Superintendent of Schools of the Catholic School Region Northwest/South Bronx in the Archdiocese of New York, was declared an honorary alumni of St. Angela Merici School for her commitment and dedication to the elementary school. In May 2020, All Hallows High School named an annual award the "Hon. Llinét Rosado Award for Mock Trial," in honor of Justice Rosado's years of service to All Hallows' Mock Trial Team. One of her favorite things about being a judge is her ability to officiate weddings and she has officiated over 53 weddings thus far!

Justice Rosado serves on Gender Fairness Committee for the 12th Judicial District and the New York State Bench Book Committee. Justice Rosado is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; Bronx Bar Association; Bronx Family Court Bar Association; Bronx County Catholic Guild; the Dominican Bar Association; the New York City Family Court Judges Association, the Puerto Rican Bar Association, the Association of Supreme Court Judges of the State of New York; and the Bronx Women's Bar Association. Currently, she is a Board of Director of the Latino Judges Association, Vice President of the National Association of Women Judges, N.Y. Chapter; and member of the Advisory Board of the Thurgood Marshall Junior Mock Trial Competition. Chief Judge Janet DiFiore appointed Justice Rosado a Commissioner of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission and to the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts.

Justice Rosado's success and contributions have been recognized by numerous individuals, institutions, and organizations, including but not limited to the Bronx Borough President, the Bronx Family Court Bar Association; the Bronx Women's Bar Association; the Bronx Times; the Dominican Bar Association; the Puerto Rican Bar Association; PACE University, Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Hofstra University Maurice A. Deane School of Law; The 100 Hispanic Women National, Inc., and SUNY Albany Alumni Association.





**HENRY T. BERGER, ESQ.** has extensive experience in government, politics and the private sector. He has served on the New York City Council and has been senior partner in his own law firm practicing in the areas of election law, labor relations, civil litigation and related matters. He represented union clients in the health care and higher education areas and has spent the more than forty years representing numerous political candidates and political committees. His election law clients have included major national, state and local political candidates. Among the candidates he has represented are President Bill Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore, Senator Hillary Clinton, Governor David Paterson and Mayors David Dinkins and Bill de Blasio. He most recently served as Special Counsel to Mayor Bill de Blasio and subsequently as Counsel to the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary.

With the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, he has participated in international election matters, serving as an advisor to the Election Law Review Committee of the Gambian government, including drafting of the Electoral Code for restoration of democracy in the Gambia, conducted pre-election assessments in Ghana and Croatia and was an election observer in Kosovo. He has chaired the Special Committee on Election Law of the New York City Bar Association. He has a B.S. from Lehigh University and a J.D. from the New York University School of Law.



**HONORABLE KAREN LUPULOFF**, Supervising Judge of New York County Family Court, was first appointed to the bench in 2005. Judge Lupuloff presided during her first year in Manhattan Criminal Court and has presided since that time in New York City Family Court, both in the Bronx and in Manhattan. Judge Lupuloff has served as Supervising Judge in New York County Family Court since 2016.

Judge Lupuloff is a member of The Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission of the New York Courts and was recently appointed as Co-Chair of the Commission.

Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Lupuloff served for nine years as an assistant district attorney at the New York County District Attorney's Office, where she prosecuted street crimes, sex abuse and child abuse cases, and investigated and prosecuted international drug cartels. She then worked for five years at the Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the NYC School District, investigating crimes and corruption in the NYC school system. As a Deputy Commissioner for that office, Judge Lupuloff supervised attorneys, investigators, and support staff. Finally, before her elevation to the Bench, Judge Lupuloff served for five years at the NYS Office of the Attorney General, first as the deputy chief of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and subsequently rising to the level of deputy chief of the Criminal Division.

Judge Lupuloff received her B.A. from American University and her J.D. from Temple University School of Law.



**HONORABLE NISHA MENON** was appointed as a Family Court Judge in the City of New York on February 15, 2023. She currently sits in Kings County Family Court where she primarily hears custody, visitation and family offense cases. Her path to her current position was not entirely straightforward. After graduating from Columbia Law School, Judge Menon worked for a large private firm. She then received an LLM from NYU with the intention of working in the public sector for a few years and then teaching.

Judge Menon next worked for the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Practice ("JRP"). She enjoyed that position so much that she forgot about teaching and stayed there for 8 years. She left JRP to help her family's business for a few years before coming back to Family Court as a Court Attorney Referee. Judge Menon worked as Court Attorney Referee in Kings County for about six years before being appointed to her current position.



**HONORABLE GIGI PARRIS** has dedicated the majority of her career working in Family Courts of the City of New York. She was appointed as an Interim Civil Court Judge in March 2021 and was first assigned to sit in New York County Family Court to preside over child custody, visitation and family offense cases and to assist with child protective and juvenile delinquency cases, as needed. Judge Parris was reappointed in January 2022 and shortly thereafter, reassigned to Bronx County Family Court where she continues to handle child custody, visitation and family offense cases.

Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Parris served as the Supervising Court Attorney in Queens County Family Court to the Supervising Judge, Hon. Gilbert Taylor. Judge Parris previously worked with Judge Taylor as his Court Attorney in Bronx County Family Court, focusing her attention on an array of family law matters.

Before becoming a Court Attorney, Judge Parris was a Supervising Attorney at Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem for several years. In this position, she provided supervision, guidance, and mentorship to staff attorneys on the Family Defense Team and also represented indigent parents and caretakers charged with neglect and abuse of children. Judge Parris litigated on behalf of parents for nearly a decade. Prior to joining Neighborhood Defender Service, Judge Parris served as a Staff Attorney in the Family Defense Practice at The Bronx Defenders for five years. She began her legal career as a corporate associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

Judge Parris was a 2017 recipient of the Ms. JD Woman of Inspiration Award; an award reserved for a woman who, regardless of her practice area or type of practice, inspires others by her commitment and passion to her work.

Outside of the courtroom, Judge Parris is a member of the New York State Family Court Judges Association, New York City Family Court Judges Association and Judicial Friends Association. She is also an active member of the New York City Bar Association Family Court & Family Law Committee. Prior to her appointment, Judge Parris served as a member of the Board of Directors of New Heights Academy Charter School, Manhattan's largest independent charter school for five years. As a board member, she lends her advisory skills to support the academic success of middle and high school students.

Judge Parris is a native New Yorker, born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens. She obtained her Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law and graduated cum laude from Harvard University with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology.

*Thank you for attending the Everything You Need to Know About Becoming a NYC Family Court Judge sponsored by the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission.*

*Special thanks to our co-sponsors – Latino Judges Association, Asian American Judges Association of New York, Bronx Family Court Bar Association, Judicial Friends Association, New York Association of Lesbian and Gay Judges, New York City Family Court Judges Association, and the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission.*



**New York City Family Court  
Judges Association**

**New York Association of Lesbian and Gay Judges**

*Comments or questions may be submitted to the  
Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission at:*

*[FHWilliams@nycourts.gov](mailto:FHWilliams@nycourts.gov)*

