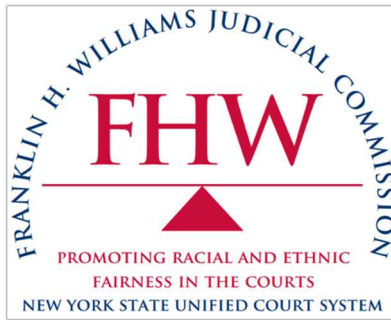




NEWS ADVISORY

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Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission to Host "Chat, Connect & Continue" Event

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK—The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission's Judicial Mentor Program will host "Chat, Connect & Continue," bringing together judges, court attorneys, defense attorneys, and legal practitioners for an afternoon focused on mentorship, professional growth, and community within the legal profession. The event will be held on **Tuesday, July 28** from 1:00 to 2:00pm at the Kings County Supreme Court-Criminal Term, 320 Jay Street, Brooklyn.

The program will open with welcoming remarks from Appellate Division, First Department Associate Justice and FHW Commission Co-Chair Troy K. Webber and Appellate Term, Second Department Associate Justice and FHW Judicial Mentor Program Chair Joanne D. Quiñones.

"This program brings together aspiring lawyers with judges and experienced legal professionals in an effort to broaden access to meaningful connections, encourage diverse perspectives, and reinforce the importance of a legal profession and judiciary that reflect the communities that they serve," said Justice Webber.

Following the welcome, attendees will hear reflections on the power of mentoring and networking from New York City Housing Court Judge Alberto Gonzalez and Legal Aid Society staff attorney Naya Brown-Yohay, a former FHW legal intern, who will speak to the impact of the program from a mentee's perspective.

"Chat, Connect and Continue is more than a 'speed mentoring' and networking experience—it is an opportunity to inspire the next generation of legal professionals to see themselves as future leaders in the law, the courts, and on the judicial bench," said Justice Quiñones.

A centerpiece of the afternoon will be the program's Mentoring Circles, which connect participants with experienced judges and legal professionals across a broad range of practice areas, including: Supreme Court, Court of Claims, Civil Court, Family Court, Housing Court, Law Clerks/Court Attorneys, Criminal Prosecution, Criminal Defense, New York City Law Department, and Solo Practitioners/Law Firms.

Mentors participating this year include sitting judges and justices from across New York City's courts, senior prosecutors and defense attorneys, corporation counsel, and solo practitioners — offering mentees direct access to guidance from leaders across the legal field.

The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission is dedicated to promoting racial and ethnic fairness in the courts. Its Judicial Mentor Program pairs early-career attorneys and law students with judges and experienced practitioners to foster professional development, expand access to mentorship, and strengthen diversity within the legal profession.

For more information about the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission or the Judicial Mentor Program, please visit www.nycourts.gov/FHW