NEWS ADVISORY

New York State
Unified Court System

Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge

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Chief Judge Wilson to Address NY's Justice Gap at Public Hearing

ALBANY, NEW YORK—Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson will preside over a statewide public hearing to evaluate the unmet civil legal services needs in New York and assess the level of resources necessary to meet those needs. He will be joined on the panel by Appellate Division Presiding Justices Hon. Dianne T. Renwick (1st Dept.), Hon. Hector D. LaSalle (2nd Dept.), Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry (3rd Dept.), and Hon. Gerald J. Whalen (4th Dept.); and Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and New York State Bar Association President Taa Grays.

WHEN: **Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 1:00pm to 5:00pm**

WHERE Court of Appeals Hall, 20 Eagle Street, Albany, New York
Livestream: http://nycourts.gov/ctapps/civil.html

Low-income New Yorkers and vulnerable communities continue to face serious barriers accessing the civil justice system. The purpose of this hearing is to gather information and data from individuals, organizations, and other entities on the impact of Judiciary Civil Legal Services funding on the delivery of civil legal services; the current scope of unmet legal services needs in housing, consumer debt, family and other essential matters; the economic and social consequences of insufficient civil legal services; the barriers facing litigants in rural communities; and the potential of enhanced use of volunteer programs, technology and other innovations in narrowing the justice gap.

The New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice will report on the results of the hearing. More information about the commission is available at https://www.nycourts.gov/permanent-commission-access-justice

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