NEWS RELEASE

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Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Panel Discussion Featuring Judicial and Legislative Leaders

Event to Feature Former Judge Rolando Acosta, Assembly Member Gabriella Romero, and State Senator Luis Sepúlveda in Conversation on Public Service, Community, and Representation

NEW YORK CITY—The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission invites the public to join a vibrant evening of culture, connection, and celebration in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month on **Thursday, September 24, 2026** from 5:00pm to 7:30pm at El Museo del Barrio at 1230 Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.

The program will celebrate the extraordinary contributions Hispanic and Latino communities have made to the nation's history and to the rich cultural tapestry of New York. The program will open with a performance from the Bronx Global Institute for Girls, and their renowned orchestra. At the heart of the evening is a distinguished panel discussion featuring former Judge Rolando Acosta, New York State Assembly Member Gabriella Romero, and New York State Senator Luis Sepúlveda. The conversation will be moderated by FHW Commissioner Maritza Buitrago. The program will close with a performance from the Dominican Dance Group.

Panelists will share their experiences in public service, reflect on the power of community, and discuss why representation in government matters for the next generation of Hispanic and Latino leaders.

“This event is an opportunity to honor the deep and lasting contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities while creating space for real conversation about public service and representation,” said Court of Appeals Associate Judge and Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission Co-Chair Shirley Troutman. “We are honored to bring together such distinguished voices for what promises to be an inspiring evening,” added Appellate Division, First Department Associate Justice and Commission Co-Chair Troy K. Webber.

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For more information about the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, please visit our website at www.nycourts.gov/FHW.