NEWS RELEASE

New York State
Unified Court System

Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge

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Housing Court Judges Named in the Bronx and Manhattan

NEW YORK CITY—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas today announced the appointments of Steven S. Park and George C. Gardner III to the high-volume Housing Parts of the New York City Civil Court, with Steven Park assigned to the Bronx and George Gardner to Manhattan. New York City Housing Court judges are appointed to five-year terms, presiding over cases involving alleged housing violations and disputes between landlords and tenants. The appointees will be filling vacancies created by the upcoming retirements of New York City Housing Court Judges Bernadette Black and Miriam Breier on October 30, 2026.

“Steven Park and George Gardner bring exceptional skill, deep dedication, and a strong commitment to equal justice,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. “Both have worked extensively in housing matters and will serve the people of New York City with fairness, diligence, and integrity.”

“These appointees have demonstrated the temperament, judgment, and work ethic necessary to serve effectively on the Housing Court bench,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George. “I am confident they will uphold the highest standards of judicial service.”

New York City Civil Court Administrative Judge Shahabuddeen Ally added, “Steven Park and George Gardner understand the complexities of Housing Court and the profound impact of its decisions on New Yorkers. Their professionalism and compassion will be invaluable to the New York City Civil Court’s busy Housing Part.”

Citywide Housing Court Supervising Judge Jack Stoller stated, “Both appointees have excelled in their work with litigants and counsel, consistently exhibiting sound judgment and deep knowledge of housing law. They will be tremendous assets to the court.”

Steven S. Park has served the court system for more than two decades, including long-time service as an associate court attorney in the Housing Part in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, and the Harlem Community Court. Before that, he held senior positions at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and served as an Assistant Attorney General in the New York State Attorney General’s Office. He is a graduate of Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and SUNY Albany.

“I am honored to serve as the first Korean American judge appointed to the New York City Housing Court,” said Judge Park. “After 30 years in public service — including my work at the Attorney General’s Office, HPD, and over two decades as a Housing Court attorney — I look forward to continuing to serve the people of New York City with fairness and integrity. I want to thank the court leadership for their trust and for this opportunity.”

George C. Gardner III most recently served as Deputy Director at Legal Services NYC (LSNYC), managing a large eviction-defense unit and supervising attorneys and legal staff in litigation, appeals, and client advocacy. His earlier experience includes work as a supervising attorney, senior staff attorney, and staff attorney at LSNYC, complex commercial litigation at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, and a racial justice fellowship at the Center for Constitutional Rights. He holds a J.D. from Howard University School of Law and a B.A. from the University of Michigan.

“Thank you to the judicial leadership team for entrusting me with the solemn responsibility of serving the people of New York City as a judge of the Housing Court,” Judge Gardner stated. “My deep gratitude goes to my friends, family, and colleagues for their consistent support. I look forward to filling this role with fairness, rigor, and vim.”

“We are most appreciative of outgoing Judges Black and Breier for their leadership and commitment throughout their tenure on the City’s Housing Court bench,” said Judges Zayas and St. George.



Judge Steven S. Park



Judge George C. Gardner III

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