



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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New Professional Development Program Targets Non-Judicial Court Employees, Grades 12-21

NEW YORK—The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission today announced the launch of the Professional Development Academy in partnership with the New York State Unified Court System’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the New York State Judicial Institute and the Court System’s Division of Human Resources’ Training and Professional Development Office. The Professional Development Academy is a two-day immersive in-person program for court personnel, targeting non-judicial employees in grades 12 through 21, to be held at the New York State Judicial Institute in White Plains, New York on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 and Thursday, May 12, 2022.

The two-day pilot program, which is being introduced to court personnel in the Twelfth Judicial District (Bronx County) and the Ninth Judicial District (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties), will include sessions on cover-letter and resume writing, the interview process, presentation and public speaking skills, as well as networking and the importance of mentorship. The Williams Commission intends to replicate the program in the Court System’s other judicial districts.

The Williams Commission, co-chaired by Hon. Troy K. Webber of the Appellate Division, First Department and Hon. Richard Rivera, Supervising Judge of the Family Court, Third Judicial District, is an independent commission that works to educate and advise decision makers in the New York Court System on issues affecting both employees and litigants of color, implementing recommendations to address said issues. As part of these efforts, the Commission develops programs to improve the perception of fairness within the Court System and ensure equal justice in New York State.

“One mission of the Williams Commission is to ensure that court leadership reflects the rich diversity of the communities of our state. This program was designed to support that mission,” said Judge Rivera.

Justice Webber stated, “We hope this program will serve as a pipeline for those employees of targeted grades 12 through 21 seeking professional advancement within the court system.”

Hon. Kathie Davidson, Dean of the New York State Judicial Institute, said, “Having the Professional Development Academy at the Judicial Institute is consistent with our goal of providing training not only for judges but also for non-judicial personnel.”

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

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