



MEDIA ADVISORY

New York State
Unified Court System

Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge

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Pro Bono Awards Ceremony to Honor Attorneys for Volunteer Efforts on Behalf of New Yorkers in Need

WHAT: In recognition of National Pro Bono Celebration Week, the New York State Court System's Office for Justice Initiatives, New York State Bar Association and New York County Lawyers Association will present an awards ceremony honoring attorneys for their pro bono service. A list of this year's honorees follows. Special recognition will be given to Court Attorney Angela Britton who will be honored with the **NYS Courts Office for Justice Initiatives Circle of Excellence Award** for her outstanding contributions to the **New York City Family Court Volunteer Attorney Program**. Her extraordinary work in coordinating successful and longstanding pro bono partnerships with over 40 New York City law firms and corporate law departments has advanced access to justice for the many thousands of litigants in NYC Family Court that have been served by the program. During the Covid-19 pandemic, her indefatigable efforts in launching a virtual pro bono platform for the program were a critical tool in expanding pro bono resources to assist Family Court litigants.

WHEN: Thursday, October 19, 2023
6:00 p.m.

WHERE: New York County Surrogate's Court Rotunda
31 Chambers Street, Lower Manhattan

WHO: Speakers include **Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives; the co-chairs of the New York State Bar Association's President's Committee on Access to Justice, **Rezwanul Islam and Lynn Poster-Zimmerman**, President of New York County Lawyers Association, **Adrienne Koch**, and **Anthe Maria Bova**, General Counsel & Director of Pro Bono Programs, New York County Lawyers' Association.

The mission of the [Office for Justice Initiatives \(OJI\)](#) is to ensure meaningful access to equal justice for all those passing through the doors of every New York State court - regardless of income, background, or ability.

The [New York State Bar Association](#) with 77,000 members, is the largest voluntary state bar association in the nation. The Association's programs and activities have served the public and improved the justice system since its founding in 1876.

The [New York County Lawyers Association](#), founded in 1908, was one of the first major bar associations in the nation to admit members without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, or gender. Since its inception, it has pioneered some of the most far-reaching and tangible reforms in American jurisprudence.

New York State Court System Honorees:

Michael Bozicas
Angela Britton
Brenda Brown
Craig P. Druehl
William Gilinsky
Michael Kotowski
Victor Metsch
Dara L. Sheinfeld
Réno Tonon

New York State Bar Association Honorees:

Lynn Barsamian
Stephen M. Jacoby
Evelyn Kalenscher
Beth G. Schwartz
Ann Williams
Jonathan Zich

New York County Lawyers' Association Honorees:

Adam Drake
Sonia Griffin
Andrew Kirschenbaum
Madeline J. More
Sylvia Precht
Christina M. Seda-Acosta
Nadav Ben Zur

135 additional attorneys, law students and other volunteers will receive certificates for their distinguished pro bono service.

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