



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge**

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OCA Forms Statewide Division of Court Modernization

NEW YORK—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George today announced the creation of the Division of Court Modernization (DCM) within the Office of Court Administration and the appointment of Sheng Guo as the Director of the Division.

The court system's Courtroom Modernization Initiative (CMI) Team was formed in 2019 with the goal of providing basic audio capacity to 1540 courtrooms. Over the past few years, CMI has played an increasingly important role in supporting in-person, hybrid and virtual court operations. As part of the concerted efforts in delivering efficient, accessible and quality justice services to New Yorkers, Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George are committed to the next level of court modernization with targeted, practical solutions for every courtroom, jury room and courthouse public space in New York State. DCM's expanded mandate is to make court spaces more functional and accessible, thus ensuring the full participation of all stakeholders in the justice process and enriching their experience via human-centered design and innovative technology.

DCM projects focus on audio and acoustics, accessibility, evidence presentation, videoconferencing, streaming and digital signage, among other areas—such as the recently completed installation of the latest integrative technology in each of Queens County Supreme Court's Criminal Term's 24 courtrooms, a collaboration of the CMI team and the Queens County District Attorney, which provided funding for the project. DCM currently operates in New York City and the Capital Region, with a new office opening soon in Rochester to provide much-needed support for court modernization in the western region of the state.

“Sheng Guo and the CMI team have been doing a remarkable job implementing—and tailoring—the latest integrative courtroom technology in providing an enhanced courtroom experience for those who work in, appear before and visit our courtrooms. Court modernization is critical in eliminating barriers to, and improving the quality of, justice for all New Yorkers. I am extremely pleased to name Sheng to lead this newly created Division as we enter this next, statewide phase of our courtroom modernization implementation efforts,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.

“Sheng Guo is both an innovator and a team builder, in addition to being one of the hardest working people I know. With Sheng leading the Division’s talented team of technical experts, I look forward to the court system’s expansion of user-focused technology in promoting access to the New York State Courts and improving the delivery and quality of justice throughout our great state,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George.

“I am extremely grateful to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administration Judge St. George for their strong support of court modernization, and their trust in me. I am looking forward to working with the court leadership team and the entire court community, as well as our partners in the public and private sectors, in expanding and accelerating our court modernization efforts,” said Mr. Guo.

Prior to leading the CMI Team, Sheng served as Chief Technology Officer of the New York State Unified Court System over two decades. Sheng’s leadership in delivering innovative solutions to the New York State Courts has been recognized nationally. Sheng was named one of the Premier 100 IT leaders by Computer World in 2008.

During the past five years, Sheng has led a team of professionals in planning, designing, implementing and supporting innovative solutions to facilitate in-person, virtual and hybrid court operations. Under his leadership, the project that enabled the continuation of criminal jury trials during the Covid-19 pandemic received the CIO 100 award in 2022. Additionally, the project to modernize the historical courtroom in Columbia County received the Court Space Innovation award from the National Center for State Courts.

Sheng earned his bachelor’s degree in computer science from South China University of Technology, and his MBA degree from Bernard M. Baruch College, City University of New York.

His appointment is effective immediately.

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