



# **NEWS RELEASE**

**New York State  
Unified Court System**

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

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## **Chief Judge Rowan Wilson Names Retired Justice and Esteemed Scholar Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt the First and Honorary Historian of the Unified Court System**

**NEW YORK**—Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson has designated the first Historian of the Unified Court System, naming esteemed jurist and scholar Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt to this newly created, honorary post. As Historian of the Unified Court System, Judge Rosenblatt will act as a liaison between the New York State Court System and the Historical Society of the New York Courts; encourage and coordinate the preservation and cataloging of records of historical value located within the offices of the county clerks; collect and present oral histories of judges and court professional staff; actively encourage research about the New York Courts to increase knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of its unique history; and advise the court system’s leadership with regard to preserving matters of historical significance to the New York Courts.

“As a scholar with a deep and abiding passion for legal history, Judge Rosenblatt is keenly aware of the degree to which our past informs our future. That is why we must focus our efforts on preserving, and promoting greater public understanding of, the rich historical heritage of New York’s courts and legal system,” said Chief Judge Wilson. “I can think of no one more dedicated or capable than the incomparable Judge Rosenblatt to guide us in this important endeavor—an integral part of the court system’s ongoing work to foster civic education and engagement. I am delighted to announce his appointment to this important new post.”

“A beloved and highly accomplished member of New York’s legal and academic communities, the Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt is eminently qualified to assume this key role as the Unified Court System’s premier historian. Judge Rosenblatt’s interests and expertise are wide-ranging. He is a brilliant lawyer and jurist, distinguished scholar, prolific author, and avid sports enthusiast whose hobbies and passions are too numerous to list. We are most fortunate to have him as the New York Courts’ first-ever historian, to lead us in preserving—and enhancing public understanding of and appreciation for—the New York Courts’ rich and diverse history,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.

“Judge Rosenblatt is nothing short of an iconic figure, as much admired for his profound knowledge of and reverence for legal history as for his humanity, energy, creativity, and quick wit. With his passion for the law and legal scholarship—and his instrumental part in the creation of the Historical Society of the New York Courts, where he served in various capacities, including as President—he is perfectly suited for this inaugural, and significant, role,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George. “I am eager to work with him, the Historical Society of the New York Courts, and the court system’s other partners to advance the court system’s historical research and preservation efforts and broaden public knowledge of the New York Courts’ unique history.”

“Judge Rosenblatt is an excellent choice for the first Historian of the Unified Court System. He has had a storied career as a jurist and the privilege of co-founding the Historical Society of the New York Courts with Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye,” said former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, President of the Historical Society of the New York Courts. “The Society’s work fosters deeper appreciation and understanding of the evolving role of courts, rule of law, and justice in our community, and Judge Rosenblatt is the right fit to serve as a bridge between the Society and the court system.”

“I am very pleased by having been named to the post and gratified that Chief Judge Wilson and Chief Administrative Judge Zayas consider me as up to the job. I hope that judges and lawyers will reach out to me with observations or questions and materials. It is never too late to preserve things. A hundred years from now people will really appreciate it, as we do when we come across old writings and other gems,” said Judge Rosenblatt.

Judge Rosenblatt has had an illustrious legal and judicial career. Over the course of his long-established career and in addition to his time as a private practitioner, he has served as the Dutchess County District Attorney; a Dutchess County Court Judge; a New York State Supreme Court Justice; an Appellate Division, Second Department, Associate Justice; the Chief Administrative Judge of the New York State Courts; and an Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. A distinguished scholar, he has lectured at numerous academic institutions including Harvard Law School, Vassar College, and New York University School of Law, and has served as a faculty member at the New York State Judicial Institute, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and the Civitas-Russia Teacher Education Program.

Judge Rosenblatt had an integral role in the creation of the Historical Society of the New York Courts—the mission of which is to preserve, protect, and promote the legal history of New York—and has served the Society in various capacities, including as President, President Emeritus, Trustee, and the Inaugural Albert M. Rosenblatt Legal History Scholar. He has authored numerous books and articles related to the history of the New York Courts and the law, including, *The Eight: Lemmon Slave Case and the Fight for Freedom*, *Dutch Influences on Law and Governance in New York*, and *The Judges of the New York Court of Appeals: A Biographical History*, along with other works. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Law School and the recipient of numerous honors.

His appointment is effective August 29, 2024.

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