



NEWS ADVISORY

New York State
Unified Court System

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Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge

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Date: October 21, 2024

Attorneys, Other Volunteers to be Honored for Their 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 and other volunteers for their pro bono service. A list of this year's honorees is attached. Special recognition will be given to the Small Claims Arbitrators Association. The Association will receive a joint New York State Bar Association and NYS Unified Courts Office for Justice Initiatives' Access to Justice Pro Bono Award for the Association's collaboration with the New York City Small Claims Court in furthering Access to Justice for Small Claims litigants, and for its significant efforts in creating and maintaining a web-based scheduling platform for arbitrator volunteers and court staff to easily access; as well as for its organization of numerous arbitrator volunteer trainings this past year. The Association's work this past year in partnering with the NYC Civil Court to recruit, train and schedule volunteer arbitrators for Small Claims matters has been crucial in revitalizing and facilitating the re-launch of in-person evening Small Claims Courts which had been suspended since the Covid-19 Pandemic.

WHEN: **Tuesday, October 22, 2024**
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

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

WHO: Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson; Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Edwina G. Richardson; New York State Bar Association President Domenick Napolitano; New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) President Adrienne Koch; and NYCLA General Counsel and Director of Pro Bono Programs Anthe Maria Bova

The New York State Unified Court System's Office for Justice Initiatives ([Office for Justice Initiatives - HOME | NYCOURTS.GOV](#)) advances equal access to justice in all NY State Courts for people of all backgrounds, incomes, and abilities, by using every resource, including pro bono programs, self-help services, technological tools; and by securing stable and adequate non-profit and government funding for civil and criminal legal services programs.

The New York State Bar Association (<http://www.nysba.org/>) 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 (www.nycla.org), 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

Kira Mineroff
Jennifer Truman
Daniel Caballero
Ben Minkoff
Brenda Brown
Taja Hawkins

New York State Bar Association/NYS Unified Court System Honorees:

Anna Delio
Bradley Kurkowski
Michael Aronowsky
Laurie Kramer
Lisa Krizman
Small Claims Arbitrators Association

New York County Lawyers' Association Honorees

Margaret Byrne
Sabrina S. Bohunek
Sara Arrow
Julia Long
Erika K. Birk
Megha Hoon
Brittany Nagy
Nicholas Shepard Netland
Brenden Dougherty
Pia-Milan Green

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

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