



# **NEWS RELEASE**

**New York State  
Unified Court System**

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

**Contact:  
Al Baker, Communications Director  
Arlene Hackel  
(212) 428-2500  
[publicinformation@nycourts.gov](mailto:publicinformation@nycourts.gov)  
[www.nycourts.gov/press](http://www.nycourts.gov/press)**

**Date: January 24, 2025**

## **Housing Court Advisory Council Appointments Announced**

**NEW YORK**—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George today announced the appointments of distinguished jurist Hon. Douglas E. Hoffman (Ret.) and prominent New York City attorney Carlos Perez-Hall to the Housing Court Advisory Council (HCAC) which, comprising 14 members, assists in the selection of New York City Civil Court’s Housing Part judges and produces annual reports on the Housing Parts’ functioning. HCAC members represent the real estate industry, tenant organizations, the public sector, civic groups and others, with Judge Hoffman succeeding Hon. Marcia J. Sikowitz (Ret.) as chair, and Mr. Perez-Hall replacing Philip Rosen, Esq. of Horing, Welikson, Rosen & Digrugilliers P.C. as a departing member. The appointments were made with the approval of Presiding Justices Hon. Dianne T. Renwick and Hon. Hector D. LaSalle of the Appellate Division’s First and Second Departments, respectively.

“The HCAC’s role is crucial in ensuring the quality and integrity of those who serve as judges in New York City’s housing courts which, among our busiest courts, handle sensitive matters impacting the stability of individuals, families, and entire communities,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. “I am grateful that Judge Hoffman, who served the court system with distinction for three decades—including on New York City’s housing bench—has agreed to take on this pivotal leadership role as HCAC chair, and that Mr. Perez-Hall, a highly respected member of New York City’s legal community with vast experience and expertise in housing matters, will join the Council’s distinguished membership. I look forward to working with them in their respective new roles.”

“The role of the Housing Court Advisory Council has never been more significant. Thus, I could not be more pleased to announce the appointments of two such outstanding candidates to support the Council’s critically important work,” said First Deputy Chief

Administrative Judge St. George. “A key factor in the Council’s success is the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives brought by its members, who represent a broad range of constituencies, all collaborating for the betterment of the public. Judge Hoffman is an eminent jurist and skilled leader, and a fine choice to lead this distinguished group. An esteemed lawyer who is widely respected as an expert in housing law and Housing Court procedure, Carlos Perez-Hall brings a trove of knowledge and experience to his new role as a Council member.”

“I am truly honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Housing Court Advisory Council. I would like to sincerely thank Chief Administrative Judge Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George for their trust in my abilities,” said Judge Douglas E. Hoffman. “In my nearly 30 years on the bench, one unequivocal fact remained true: New York City’s Housing Court is among the nation’s most active and dynamic courts, with this unique and talented advisory council a shining example of how the private and public sectors can collaborate and engage effectively. I look forward to working with the Council members.”

“I would like to express my gratitude to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George for selecting me to serve on this esteemed advisory group,” said Carlos Perez-Hall. “Having represented clients in housing matters in New York City throughout my legal career, I have an intimate understanding of the workings of New York City’s Housing Parts. I am also well acquainted with the judicial appointment review process. I hope that my experience and expertise will enable me to meaningfully contribute as a Council member.”

Hon. Douglas E. Hoffman retired from the Unified Court System in September 2024 after nearly 30 years on the bench, starting in the New York County Housing Court in 1996. He was appointed a Criminal Court Judge in 2003 by Mayor Bloomberg, later becoming an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court and Family Court Judge in Bronx County. From 2009 to 2016, he served as the Supervising Judge of the New York County Family Court, focusing on custody, visitation, and domestic violence cases. He established the Integrated Custody and Domestic Relations Part and a specialized Immigration Part for undocumented minors.

From 2017 until his retirement in 2024, Judge Hoffman served as Acting Justice of the Supreme Court, Matrimonial Division, overseeing complex matters and dealing with international law and family offenses. He is the current chair of the Appellate Division, First Department’s Family Court Advisory Committee. Before becoming a judge, he worked at The Legal Aid Society and served as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Anne E. Thompson. He graduated from New York University School of Law as a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Oberlin College.

Carlos Perez-Hall is a senior partner and member of the Board of Directors at Borah Goldstein Altschuler Nahins & Goidel P.C. and co-heads the firm’s Landlord/Tenant Division. He is responsible for the firm’s litigation practice in Bronx County and appears in Housing Court primarily in Bronx, Manhattan, and Kings counties, representing

landlords in both residential and commercial matters. Mr. Perez-Hall served as the 58th President of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and was chair of its Judiciary Committee from 2011-2017. As a member of the New York State Bar Association, he represented the 12th District (Bronx) on the Executive Board of the Real Property Law Section.

Mr. Perez-Hall created and hosted four countywide Judicial Seminar lectures for New York City Housing Court Judges covering numerous topics, including post-evictions and illegal lockout proceedings; the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019; Use and Occupancy/RPAPL (745): Landlord Rights and Tenant Defenses; and Proper Respondents in Summary Proceedings and the Use of Aliases. He received his B.A. from Emory University and his J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Added Judges Zayas and St. George, “We are extremely thankful to Hon. Marcia Sikowitz for her sound and steady leadership of the Council for the past three years, and to Philip Rosen for his service and contributions to the advisory group over the course of his membership.”

The appointments are effective immediately.



*Hon. Douglas E. Hoffman*



*Carlos Perez-Hall*