



Hon. Gerald J. Whalen
Presiding Justice
New York State Supreme Court
Appellate Division
Fourth Department

DRAFT NEWS ADVISORY

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Appellate Division, Fourth Department's Mental Hygiene Legal Service to Celebrate 60 Years of Service

Rochester, New York—The Appellate Division, Fourth Department's Mental Hygiene Legal Service will celebrate its 60-year anniversary on **September 9, 2025, at noon** at the **Woodcliff Hotel and Spa in Fairport, New York**.

The MHLS works to ensure the continued constitutional validity and overall legality of the system of admission, retention, and care and treatment of individuals in accordance with the Mental Hygiene Law; and to represent individuals in guardianships and certain other proceedings initiated due to concerns over the status of their mental health. The MHLS carries out this duty in a fashion that recognizes the concerns of the public and enforces and respects the rights of the individuals involved.

Presiding Justice Gerald J. Whalen and MHLS Director Elizabeth S. Fortino will join elected officials, including keynote speakers New York State Senators Samra G. Brouk and Jeremy Cooney, in marking the MHLS' 60 years of exceptional service to the community. Additional speakers will include City of Rochester Mayor Malik Evans and Monroe County Legislator Ricky G. Frazier.

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