



**WORKING TOGETHER TO FURTHER
THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS**



Conversations with NYS Governor Kathy Hochul
and NYS Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson

January 22, 2024
Harvard Club of New York City

MOVING FORWARD TO EMPOWER NYS STUDENTS IN 2023



The Historical Society of the New York Courts has been empowering students to understand the role of New York's courts and become informed citizens since 2010. To date, the Society has reached over 3,000 high school, middle school, and community college students and educators with this important, but sometimes overlooked, curriculum.

In 2023, the Society strengthened its commitment to education with the creation of its [Resident Education Fellow](#), a position held by [Dr. Julia Rose Kraut](#), the Society's inaugural [Judith S. Kaye Teaching Fellow](#) in 2016. In this position, Dr. Kraut began the process of expanding the Society's reach to enrich the New York State students' learning about history and government.

Building Partnerships Inside and Outside the New York State Unified Court System

This past year, the Society focused on building partners, both inside and outside of the court system, to highlight the Society's role as an authority on the history of New York's courts in the classroom. Dr. Kraut worked closely with the [Office for Justice Initiatives](#), [Office for Diversity & Inclusion](#), and [Office of Public Affairs](#) to develop resources for schools, particularly around court tours. This includes building a database of judges, attorneys, and court personnel to bring students into the courthouse, as well as go into classrooms. Recently, [Hon. Lillian Wan](#), [Hon. Toko Serita](#) and [Eric Fieldman, Esq.](#), visited schools.



Dr. Kraut also focused on raising the visibility of the Society's educational programming with external civic education groups. In 2023, she participated in guest lectures to teachers-in-training at [New York University](#) as well as the [Syracuse Law Review's Symposium on Education Access and Opportunity](#). Dr. Kraut is now developing methods to expand upon the work in her first year of the fellowship to continue to take the Society's educational projects to the next level.

Developing a Civics Toolkit for Educators

Through a grant sponsored by the [New York Community Trust](#), Dr. Kraut developed [Building Informed Citizens Today for a Better Tomorrow: A Resource Toolkit for Teaching American Democracy & Government](#). This toolkit is designed for teachers with a focus on flexibility, accessibility, and clarity and presents original and existing educator-approved materials in an organized and interactive format. It gives teachers the ability to choose among the various activities to support their students' needs by incorporating current events and legal changes within their historical context.

CONNECTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF NYS ATTORNEYS TO THE HISTORY OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION



Finding your way in the legal profession as a young attorney can be difficult, which is why the Society developed its [Young Lawyers Committee](#). Led by Board liaison [Alexander C. Drylewski, Esq.](#), and co-chairs [Chaka S. Laguerre](#) and [Zachary Segal, Esq.](#), the Committee brings together attorneys in private practice, prosecutors, public defenders, and in-house counsel with different backgrounds and experiences, but similar interests, who practice in New York's courts. It develops events that honor past judges, discuss famous cases, and cover emerging topics in New York law; offers mentorship opportunities with the Society's Board of Trustees, creating important professional and meaningful personal relationships; and builds Society chapters at State law schools to inspire students to revisit the shared history of the profession.

Join the co-chairs at the Committee's first event of the new year on [Tuesday, February 6 at the Appellate Division, First Department](#) to learn more about its projects, meet with members of the Society's Board of Trustees, and begin to develop your ideas into valuable programming and relationships.

Building a Virtual Community

Led by [Communications Strategy Fellow Dr. Eric Van Der Vort](#), the Society has transformed how it connects with its virtual community. Since its inception, the Society has had a robust archive of biographies, cases, courts, and more—and now it has the outreach to match.

The legal history of the State is rich, and there are so many avenues to explore—from constitutional questions to important cases and figures, from social issues to the evolution of the court system. In 2023, the Society developed a new-found focus in preservation issues with the podcast series [Wrecking Ball: Tales of Preservation, the Law, and the Places New Yorkers Love](#). Led by [Adrian I. Untermeyer, Esq.](#), this series dives into the intersection of law, art, and architecture, particularly in courthouses and the messages conveyed by the art in courthouses about the judicial process, and more episodes will be launching soon.

Join the Society on its social media channels to stay up to date on events, releases of new podcast episodes, and all Society programming.

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Gala Dinner

JANUARY 22, 2024 • Harvard Club of New York City



Program

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Robert J. Giuffra, Jr.

Co-Chair & Partner, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Chair of the Board of the Historical Society of the New York Courts

Jonathan Lippman

Former Chief Judge of New York State and the New York Court of Appeals
President, Historical Society of the New York Courts

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Kathy Hochul

Governor of New York State

PROGRAM BREAK

REMARKS & INTRODUCTIONS

Marilyn Marcus

Executive Director, Historical Society of the New York Courts

Robert J. Giuffra, Jr.

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Rowan D. Wilson

Chief Judge of New York State and the New York Court of Appeals



Gov. Kathy Hochul

Kathy Hochul is the 57th and first female Governor of New York State.

She began her career in public service on her local Town Board, before serving as Erie County Clerk and as a Member of Congress for New York's 26th Congressional District.

As Lieutenant Governor, she chaired the statewide Regional Economic Development Councils, and served as co-chair of the State's Heroin and Opioid Task Force, Women's Suffrage Commission, and Child Care Availability Task Force.

Since being sworn into office in 2021, Governor Hochul has led by establishing a bold vision for New York's future. Governor Hochul has spearheaded comprehensive policies and initiatives to help New Yorkers and their families, while building an economy that is stronger and more inclusive than before. Governor Hochul is making historic investments in the people, places, and things to make that happen – from healthcare workers, small businesses, and working families to infrastructure, education, and workforce development. And in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's reckless decisions to strip away abortion rights and strike down commonsense gun regulations, Governor Hochul led the charge in Albany to protect reproductive health care and strengthen gun safety laws, ensuring New York continues to stand as a beacon of hope and freedom for the rest of the nation.

Governor Hochul was born and raised in Western New York. She and her husband, Bill Hochul, are the proud parents of two children and one granddaughter.



Hon. Jonathan Lippman

The Honorable Jonathan Lippman, former Chief Judge of New York and Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals, is Of Counsel in the New York office of Latham & Watkins LLP in its Litigation & Trial Department.

Judge Lippman served as Chief Judge from February 2009 through December 2015. He previously served as the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Department and as the longest-tenured Chief Administrative Judge in state history.

As the state's Chief Judge, he authored major decisions addressing constitutional, statutory and common law issues, championed equal access to justice issues and developed permanent funding streams for civil legal services. Chief Judge Lippman made New York the first state to require 50 hours of law-related pro bono work prior to bar admission and established programs to help alleviate the crisis in civil legal services. He strengthened the state's indigent criminal defense system, addressed the systemic causes of wrongful convictions, created Human Trafficking Courts, and led efforts to reform juvenile justice, bail and pre-trial justice systems. Judge Lippman championed the state's commercial division, reformed the attorney disciplinary system, adopted the Uniform Bar Exam, and succeeded in the creation of a salary commission for judges.

Judge Lippman serves as the Chair of the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform, formed to examine the future of the Riker's Island jail facilities. At the request of Governor Hochul, Judge Lippman is conducting a review of antisemitism and discrimination at the City University of New York, with a report to be made this year.



Hon. Rowan D. Wilson

The Honorable Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, was born in Pomona, California, and grew up in Berkeley, California. He received his A.B. degree from Harvard College in 1981, and his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1984.

He was admitted to the bar of the State of California in 1985, and the bar of the State of New York in 1987. From 1984 to 1986, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable James R. Browning, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, based in San Francisco, California.

In 1986, he joined the firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York City as an associate, and was elected to partnership there in 1991, in which position he continued until February 2017. His practice encompassed a wide variety of matters, including antitrust, intellectual property, securities and common-law fraud, contract, labor and employment, civil rights and first amendment issues.

On January 15, 2017, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo nominated Judge Wilson to serve as an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, and the New York State Senate confirmed his nomination on February 6, 2017.

On April 10, 2023, Governor Kathy Hochul nominated Judge Wilson to serve as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York. The New York State Senate confirmed his nomination on April 18, 2023.

While in private practice, Judge Wilson served on the boards of several charitable and not-for-profit organizations and handled numerous pro bono matters.



Robert J. Giuffra, Jr., Esq.

Robert Giuffra is Co-Chair of Sullivan & Cromwell and a senior partner of the Firm's Litigation Group. He has served on Sullivan & Cromwell's Management Committee since 2007. A fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and of International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Bob focuses on "bet-the-company," commercial, securities, white-collar criminal, products liability, banking, insurance, employment and tax litigation.

A graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School, Bob has served in all three branches of the U.S. government. He was a law clerk to Chief Justice William Rehnquist of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Ralph Winter of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. From 1995 to 1996, he was Chief Counsel to the U.S. Senate Banking Committee. In 2017, Chief Justice John Roberts appointed him to the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the U.S. Courts. A native New Yorker, he has served on New York's Permanent Commission on Access to Justice, the State Commission on Public Integrity, the State Ethics Commission, the State-Federal Judicial Council, the Commercial Division Advisory Council, the Southern District Magistrate Judge Selection Panel, and the Commission on Attorney Discipline. He has also served as President of the Federal Bar Council. He is Chair of the American Swiss Foundation and was a trustee of the American Ballet Theatre.

Bob lives in New York City with his wife Joyce and their three children, Elizabeth, Caroline, and Robert III.

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REACHING THE PUBLIC IN THE COURTS...



In 2021, the Society embarked on an exciting new project, a traveling exhibit on a seminal New York court case that represented the most unyielding statement made against slavery by any court in the United States prior to the Civil War. In the *Lemmon Slave Case*, the New York courts helped free eight enslaved young women and children who sailed into the harbor with their enslavers from Virginia. The story of this monumental moment in New York jurisprudence, including the daring rescue from a ship bound for Texas and the courageous collaboration of free Black and white abolitionists, is told on eight text panels and a video narration by **James Earl Jones**. The exhibit visited 45 courthouses over a nearly two-year period, reaching 38 of the State's 62 counties. Courthouses took the opportunity to educate court employees and the public on the case, with local events sponsored by bar associations around the State.

The tour concluded with a closing ceremony at the **New York County Courthouse** entitled *On the Road: The Legacy of the Lemmon Slave Case* featuring remarks from **Hon. Adam Silvera**, **Hon. Dianne T. Renwick**, **Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan**, and **Hon. Edwina G. Richardson**, with featured speaker **Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson**. This program celebrated the case that defied the law of land permitting slavery in the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dred Scott* decision. **Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt**, author of *The Eight: The Lemmon Slave Case and the Fight for Freedom* and President Emeritus of the Society, in conversation with Trustee **David L. Goodwin, Esq.**, discussed the legacy of the case today, highlighting the importance of learning from the sometimes painful and sometimes courageous lessons of history.



...AND BEYOND



Recent Public Programs

Justice Felix Frankfurter and the Idea of Judicial Self Restraint: Then and Now in Federal and State Courts

December 11, 2023 • New York City Bar Association

With participants **Prof. John Q. Barrett**, **Henry M. Greenberg, Esq.**, **Hon. Jonathan Lippman**, **Dean Troy A. McKenzie**, **Prof. Brad Snyder**, and **Hon. Barbara D. Underwood**, this program delved into the judicial philosophy of Justice Frankfurter and how his legacy is relevant in today's courts.



The Struggle for Ratification: New York's Role in Shaping the U.S. Constitution

November 8, 2023 • Webinar

Constitutional scholars, led by moderator **Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt**, came together for a discussion about how Federalists swayed their counterparts to ratify the U.S. Constitution, their debates on the convention's floor, and New York's role in the development of the Bill of Rights.

*If you missed any of the Society's recent events, watch them online: on the website, YouTube, and Facebook!
Join our mailing list to receive invitations to all upcoming Society events!*



Looking at Courthouses Through a New Lens: Art, Architecture, and Justice in New York and Beyond

May 12, 2023 • Webinar

Hon. Dianne T. Renwick brought together a group of legal and artistic thinkers to explore questions of how to contextualize art and architecture in public buildings when faced with issues of diversity and rapid social and technological change.



Upcoming Public Program

Program on the Lemmon Slave Case

March 28, 2024 • Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library

This program will bring the audiostory *How Emeline Got Free*, a retelling of the *Lemmon Slave Case* from the oldest of the eight enslaved women and children, to a new stage at the Schomburg Center for a conversation about how to tell the stories history left behind through court cases with filmmaker **Mustapha Khan** and author **Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt**, moderated by **Hon. Dianne T. Renwick**.



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