

2025 Gala Dinner

CELEBRATING THE RULE OF LAW

WITH THE PRESIDING JUSTICES
OF THE FOUR APPELLATE DIVISIONS

Hon. Dianne T. Renwick • Hon. Hector D. LaSalle
Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry • Hon. Gerald J. Whalen



April 23, 2025
Harvard Club of New York City

A New Era for the Historical Society of the New York Courts

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to the Society's 2025 annual gala! We are grateful you are here to join us in celebrating the rule of law with the four Presiding Justices of the Appellate Divisions and the Society's mission projects that promote, preserve, and protect the legal history of this great State.

Since its inception in 2002 by then-Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye and then-Associate Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt, the Society has developed programming that illuminate how New York's legal past is very much alive and well in the present.

With a collaborative group of judges and lawyers, the Society develops educational programming that empowers New York students to create change; public programs that build an informed citizenry; oral history interviews that capture living history; publications, such as the annual calendar and scholarly journal *Judicial Notice*, that showcase the unique legal history stories of the State; and other relevant projects, such as travelling exhibits and a digital archive.

Today, the commitment made over 20 years ago is just as strong as ever.

As this is the first gala under my leadership, I look forward to continuing to collaborate with those of you who have worked with me in my previous capacities at the Society for the past eight years, and I also look forward to getting to know our long-standing supporters better. We have big plans to branch out in innovative ways later this year, and we are glad you will join us.

Our mission and message remain vital. To understand history is to understand how society came to be today. To understand *legal* history is to understand how the law has evolved to uphold the rights of the people. The rule of law ensures the government is accountable and just to the people—our democracy cannot function properly without it.

With a strong grounding in history, we can create a free future.



Our sincerest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allison'.

Allison M. Morey
Executive Director

Empowering NYS Students Through Civic Education



For over 15 years, the Society has been developing civic education programming that teaches students about the role of New York's courts in society and about their role as informed citizens. Since the start of the program, the Society continued to expand its reach to students and educators with this vital curriculum.

In 2024, the Society transformed its educational offerings to begin outreach to more schools, more students, and more teachers with history and government enrichment opportunities. This programming is led by **Dr. Julia Rose Kraut**, the Society's new Director of Programs, Education, and Research.



Bringing Judges and Lawyers into the Classroom



One of the Society's pillars of education programming is creating an opportunity for students and teachers to hear directly from judges and lawyers through class visits. Guest speakers discuss their career paths and how they became interested in the law as well as their specializations.

Most recently, Society Trustee **Hon. Barry Kamins** met with middle school students to discuss *Twelve Angry Men* and its portrayal of jury service. Last year, Society Trustee **Hon. Judy Kim** discussed her experiences in the legal profession as well as her decision to become a judge with a class of high school students. **Hon. Inga O'Neale** and court attorney (and Young Lawyers Committee member) **Natasha Delille, Esq.**, similarly presented at a Dean's Hour lecture at the Society's long-standing partner **Bard High School Early College** about their career paths. Over the years, many students who have benefited from enrichment opportunities with the Society have learned to appreciate and see themselves in the law—some even wanted to pursue a legal career after such enrichment.



Get Involved!

Would you like to hear about opportunities to visit classrooms and discuss your experiences? Scan the QR code to let us know, and we will be in touch when we have an opportunity that aligns with your preferences!

Historical Society of the New York Courts

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APRIL 23, 2025 GALA DINNER

Harvard Club of New York City

Program

WELCOME REMARKS

Robert J. Giuffra, Jr.

Co-Chair & Partner, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Chair of the Board of the Historical Society of the New York Courts

Alan Levine

Senior Counsel, Cooley LLP

Executive Vice President, Historical Society of the New York Courts

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Dianne T. Renwick

Presiding Justice of the New York State Supreme Court,

Appellate Division, First Department

and

Gerald J. Whalen

Presiding Justice of the New York State Supreme Court,

Appellate Division, Fourth Department

PROGRAM BREAK

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

Hector D. LaSalle

Presiding Justice of the New York State Supreme Court,

Appellate Division, Second Department

and

Elizabeth A. Garry

Presiding Justice of the New York State Supreme Court,

Appellate Division, Third Department

CLOSING REMARKS

Allison M. Morey

Executive Director, Historical Society of the New York Courts

Presiding Justice Dianne T. Renwick



The Honorable Dianne T. Renwick is the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Judicial Department of the New York State Supreme Court. Justice Renwick's 2023 appointment by Governor Kathy Hochul marks the first time in New York's history that one of the four Appellate Divisions is led by a Black woman and only the second time a woman heads the First Department since it was established in 1894.

Justice Renwick began her legal career representing indigent criminal defendants, first as a Staff Attorney at the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Defense Division, in the Bronx and then as a Federal Defender in the Eastern District of New York. In 1997, Justice Renwick ascended to the bench with her appointment to the New York City Housing Court. That same year, she was elected to the New York City Civil Court. In 2001, she was elected as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court and in 2008 was appointed by Governor David Paterson to the First Department as an Associate Justice.

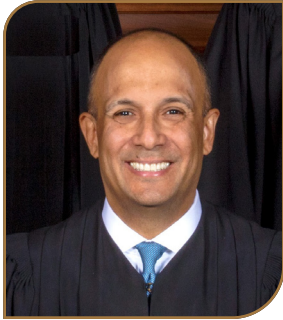
Presiding Justice Renwick is a jurist committed to upholding the rule of law and ensuring fairness and equality in the administration of justice. She is a strong proponent of civic and leadership education.

During her tenure as an Associate Justice, Renwick chaired the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board and was the inaugural chair of a First Department committee that launched the Representation of Justice Initiative to promote inclusivity in the court and the communities it serves. In this role, she oversaw the historic installation of *NOW*, a sculpture of a woman, who for the first time in the court's history, was placed on the roof on equal footing with the existing the male sculptures. Under her leadership as Presiding Justice, a stained-glass name plate commemorating Judge Constance Baker Motley was added to the historic dome in the First Department's courtroom, recognizing the legacy of one of the legal profession's legendary civil rights trailblazers and jurists.

In addition to her board service to the Historical Society of the New York Courts, Presiding Justice Renwick is an active member of several legal and community boards and committees, including Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Practicing Law Institute and the New York Botanical Garden, where she promotes educational and civic opportunities to cultivate the next generation of leaders.

Presiding Justice Renwick is a graduate of Cornell University and Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Presiding Justice Hector D. LaSalle



The Honorable Hector D. LaSalle has dedicated the majority of his career to public service as a New York State jurist, Assistant District Attorney and Assistant Attorney General.

Appointed as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department in 2021 by Governor Andrew Cuomo and reappointed to the office by Governor Kathy Hochul, Presiding Justice LaSalle is an accomplished administrator and experienced supervisor of large-scale court operations, who is

tasked with leading the busiest and largest state appellate court in the nation. The court is comprised of 21 Associate Justices and over 400 non-judicial employees with numerous departments and ancillary agencies.

Presiding Justice LaSalle serves on the New York State judiciary's primary decision-making body, the Administrative Board of the Courts, which provides direction and establishes statewide policies and practices for New York State's Unified Court System.

Presiding Justice LaSalle was initially elected to the New York State Supreme Court in 2008 and was re-elected to the same office in 2022. In 2012, Presiding Justice LaSalle was appointed to serve as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Term for the 9th and 10th Judicial Districts. In 2014, he was appointed to serve as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department by Governor Andrew Cuomo. In this role, Presiding Justice LaSalle has been involved in the disposition of over 5000 appellate matters.

In 2021, Presiding Justice LaSalle was designated to serve as a Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals for the hearing and determination of the appeals and any related motions in the cases of *White v Cuomo* and *U.S. Bank, N.A. v DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc.*

Presiding Justice LaSalle earned his Bachelor of Arts from the Pennsylvania State University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan. He worked at the law firm of Ruskin, Moscou and Faltischek, where he specialized in counseling healthcare entities on the impact of federal/state healthcare regulations on their practices. Presiding Justice LaSalle also served in the New York State Attorney General's Office, where he represented the SUNY Stony Brook Medical Center in all medical malpractice claims brought against it. Presiding Justice LaSalle served in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office (SCDAO), where he prosecuted and tried to verdict criminal matters including sexual crimes against children and homicides. He served as the Deputy Bureau Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau and became the SCDAO lead gang prosecutor and head of its Anti-Gang Unit.

Presiding Justice LaSalle is a lifelong resident of Long Island and is married to Andrea LaSalle, a certified social worker. They have two children.

Presiding Justice Elizabeth A. Garry

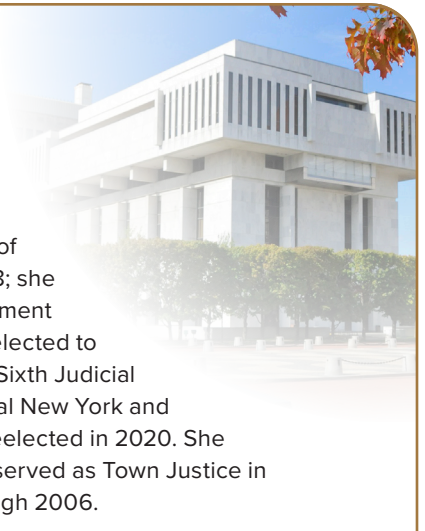


The Honorable Elizabeth A. Garry was appointed as the 16th Presiding Justice of the Third Department on January 1, 2018; she had been appointed to the Third Department effective March 19, 2009. She was first elected to serve as Supreme Court Justice for the Sixth Judicial District — which includes much of Central New York and the Southern Tier — in 2006, and was reelected in 2020. She had previously been twice elected and served as Town Justice in the Town of New Berlin from 2002 through 2006.

Presiding Justice Garry graduated from Alfred University and Albany Law School, with honors. She began her legal career as Confidential Law Clerk to the Honorable Irad S. Ingraham, Justice of the Supreme Court, from 1990 to 1994. She was thereafter engaged in private practice with the Joyce Law Firm, practicing throughout Central New York for roughly a dozen years before taking the bench full time.

Presiding Justice Garry is a Trustee of Albany Law School. She is a founding Co- Chair and current Commissioner of the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission of the New York Courts. She is also a long-time board member of the International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges and currently serves as the President of its Foundation, established to support the Judge Paul G. Feinman Scholarship, which is awarded annually to law students who have demonstrated a commitment to the LGBTQ+ community. Presiding Justice Garry is also a founding member of the Del-Chen-O Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, and has served on various other boards, community and cultural organizations and professional associations throughout her career.

She and her spouse, Betsy Cahill, have enjoyed 27 happy years together, including raising three wonderful children, now all young adults.



Presiding Justice Gerald J. Whalen



The Honorable Gerald J. Whalen, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, was born and grew up in Buffalo, NY. He received his B.A. degree from Canisius College in 1979, and his J.D. degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law in 1983.

He was admitted to the bar of the State of New York in 1984. From 1984 to 1987 he was an associate attorney at the firm of Offermann, Mahoney, Cassano, Pigott, Greco & Whalen. He was a partner at the firm from 1988 through 1993.

From 1993 through 2001, he was a shareholder in the firm of Williams, Stevens, McCarville & Frizzell, P.C. From 2001 through 2005, he was a litigation partner at Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, where he was also the firm's Associate and Hiring partner for the Buffalo Office. Throughout his time in private practice, he litigated a wide variety of matters, in the defense and prosecution of personal injury, labor law, products liability and other litigation matters, including criminal matters.

In February 2002, he began service on the Fourth Department, Eighth Judicial District Committee on Character and Fitness, which he continued until 2012. He was also an adjunct professor at Canisius College and was a member of the Canisius Pre-Law Advisory Committee from October 2006 to July 2014.

On January 1, 2006, he was sworn in as an elected New York State Supreme Court Justice for the Eighth Judicial District, after being elected to a fourteen-year term in November of 2005. He served as President of the Supreme Court Justices Association, Eighth Judicial District, in 2012. On October 1, 2012, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo designated him as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. On January 7, 2016, Governor Cuomo designated him as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. He was reelected to a second fourteen-year term in November of 2019, commencing on January 1st of 2020.

For twenty-five years, he was a member of the Judge John D. Hillery Memorial Scholarship Foundation, which provides scholarships for children in need, and was named the Foundation's Man of the Year in 1997. He has lectured at SUNY Buffalo on Constitutional Law and is a frequent lecturer at New York State and local bar association events. In May of 2024, he was named Justice of the Year by the New York State Trial Lawyers Association.

Presiding Justice Whalen and his wife Nora have lived in Hamburg, New York for over 35 years where they raised their two sons, Conor P. Whalen and Gerald J. Whalen II, Esq.



Alan Levine, Esq., *Moderator*



Alan Levine represents clients in complex commercial, securities litigation, white collar and regulatory defense with over 40 years of experience as a trial attorney. Alan was elected a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1991. He has been recognized by the New York Law Journal and Chambers USA for his prominence and experience in litigating cases involving complex financial transactions. In addition, he has represented public and private companies under criminal investigation and senior corporate officers in criminal investigations and parallel civil/criminal matters, and law firms in professional malpractice actions, partnership disputes, insurance coverage disputes and other matters arising out of the business of law firms.

Alan has repeatedly been asked by his peers to assume leadership roles in the legal community in the American College of Trial Lawyers, The Legal Aid Society, the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. He currently serves as President of Legal Aid Society and Executive Vice President of the Historical Society of New York Courts. From 2007 through 2011, he served as chairman of the board of The Legal Aid Society. He is currently Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Representation of Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department. In 2000, he was called upon to represent the Legal Services Corporation in a landmark case involving federal legal services funding, which he argued before the United States Supreme Court.

Alan has received numerous awards for his contributions including the Servant of Justice Award from The Legal Aid Society, The Torch of Learning Award from American Friends of the Hebrew University and The Human Relations Award from the Anti-Defamation League. In 2006, the Police Athletic League honored him with The Robert M. Morgenthau Award for being “a tireless advocate for the community, and in 2014 by the New York Law Journal as “Lawyers Who Lead by Example” for his demonstration of leadership through his devotion to improving the legal system and the profession in New York. Alan served for six years on the management and compensation committees of the firm and for the prior eight years (1998-2006) as managing partner of Kronish Lieb Weiner & Hellman LLP, a premier, 110-lawyer firm in Manhattan, which merged into Cooley in 2006. Prior to joining Kronish Lieb, Alan served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York, where he played a key role in the investigation and prosecution of union corruption on the New York City waterfront. He served as Law Clerk to Hon. Lee P. Gagliardi, United States District Judge for Southern District of New York. He earned his B.S. from the University of Pennsylvania and his J.D. from New York University School of Law.

Hon. Jonathan Lippman, *Moderator*



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 Chair of the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform, which issued its latest report in March on the Path Forward to Closing the Rikers Island Jail Facilities. At the request of Governor Hochul, Judge Lippman, supported by Latham and Watkins, conducted a review and investigation of antisemitism and discrimination at CUNY and issued his report and recommendations this last September, serving as a blueprint for combatting antisemitism, discrimination and hate at universities in New York and around the country.

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Looking Back...

RECENT PUBLIC PROGRAMS



A Conversation on Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law with Two Presiding Justices

October 23, 2024 • New York Law School

Co-presented with **New York Law School**, this program featured an intimate conversation about the rule of law, constitutionalism, and how these principles are understood in New York and South Africa with **Prof. Penelope Andrews**, **Judge President Dunstan Mlambo**, and **Presiding Justice Dianne T. Renwick**.



The Evolution of the U.S. Constitution: A Constitution Day Look Back and Forward

September 17, 2024 • Queens County Family Court

Prof. Tyler Rose Clemons, **Hon. Edwina G. Richardson**, and **Hon. Philippe Solages, Jr.**, examined the Constitution's evolution, tracing its journey from ratification to contemporary issues and recognizing how its meaning has developed over time.



NY County Courthouse WPA Murals: Who Created Them and What Do They Represent?

Hon. Norman Goodman Lecture

June 25, 2024 • New York County Courthouse

In honor of long-serving New York County Clerk and Commissioner of Jurors **Hon. Norman Goodman**, this event brought together art historians for a look at the Works Progress Administration murals in the Courthouse, showcasing both art and artist.



Celebrating Emeline, the Heroine of the Lemmon Slave Case: A High-water Mark for the New York Courts

May 21, 2024 • Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library

In celebration of the world premiere of *How Emeline Got Free*, an audio-drama about the case from the perspective of Emeline, the Society partnered with the **Schomburg Center** for a discussion about the case and the re-creation of Emeline's story with writer **Trey Ellis**, filmmaker **Mustapha Khan**, **Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt**, and **Hon. Dianne T. Renwick**.



Judicial Independence: The Israeli Experience

March 4, 2024 • Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

This program returned to the roots of Israel's judicial system with its secular and religious courts for a presentation and panel discussion that featured esteemed members of Israel's judiciary and bar along with a New York twist, featuring **Hon. Rolando T. Acosta** and **Henry M. Greenberg, Esq.**, as moderator.



Young Lawyers Committee Welcome Celebration

February 20, 2024 • Appellate Division, First Department Courthouse

This event celebrated Black History Month and young attorneys, featuring an evening of music, dance, and conversation with Society Trustees, practitioners, and judges to inspire a new generation of attorneys to return to legal history to understand current issues, with keynote remarks by **Presiding Justice Dianne T. Renwick**.

RECENTLY RELEASED PODCASTS



Samuel Jones Tilden: Lawyer, Statesman, and Victim of Fate

*From the Series **Chatting with the Authors of Judicial Notice***

Host **Dr. Eric van der Vort** and *Judicial Notice* editor-in-chief and author **Hon. Helen E. Freedman** discuss the subject of her recent article, Samuel Tilden: his career, his contributions to the New York legal profession, and his presidential bid in the 1876 election.



Empire State Plaza: Albany's Modern Monoliths

*From the Series **Wrecking Ball: Tales of Preservation, the Law, and the Places New Yorkers Love***

Host **Adrian Untermyer, Esq.**, and guests uncover the Plaza's history of politics, intrigue, and the Rockefeller family's dominance over New York civic and cultural life.

If you missed any of the Society's recent events or podcasts, watch them online: on the website, YouTube, and Facebook!

...and Forward

COMING SOON! PUBLIC PROGRAMS



Highlighting The Sewing Girl's Tale

Fall, 2025 • TBD

Author and historian **John Wood Sweet** wrote *The Sewing Girl's Tale* about the true-life story of Lanah Sawyer, a young woman who was raped in the 1790s. She sued, and she won. Her case raises many issues related to justice for women, and a panel, featuring **Roberta A. Kaplan** and **Hon. Dianne T. Renwick**, will discuss how far the law has come—and what has yet to be done.



Program on H.H. Richardson: Architect of Albany

November 17, 2025 • New York Court of Appeals

The return of the Court of Appeals Lecture Series will feature a discussion about **H.H. Richardson**, the architect who designed the Court of Appeals' famous courtroom, the State Capitol, and Albany City Hall.

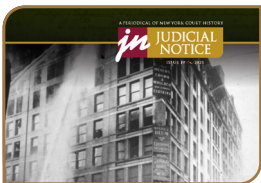


Program with Two High Court Judges

October 21, 2025 • New York Law School

We're partnering with **New York Law School** for another program that compares New York and South African law and jurisprudence with two eminent judges: **Hon. Jenny Rivera** and **Hon. Leona Theron**.

Join our mailing list to receive invitations to all upcoming Society events!



Soon to Be Released! Judicial Notice Issue 19

Our long-awaited newest issue of **Judicial Notice** is soon to be released! Issue 19 features two articles that involve the seminal U.S. Supreme Court decision *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824), an article that outlines the development of workers' compensation laws in the State, and an article that traces the evolution of LGBTQ+ rights in New York.



New! Oral History Interview

Last summer, Trustee **Hon. David L. Goodwin** interviewed two renowned public service attorneys: **Robert S. Dean** and **Lynn W. L. Fahey** for a far-reaching conversation about their roads to the law, their decisions to start appellate defense non-profits, and their important cases. The transcript and video will be available on our website soon!



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