



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

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Chief Administrative Judge Zayas Announces Appellate Term, First and Second Department Appointments

NEW YORK—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas today announced the appointment of Bronx County Supreme Court Justice Paul L. Alpert as an Associate Justice on the State Supreme Court’s Appellate Term, First Department’s First and Twelfth Judicial Districts; and Orange County Supreme Court Justice Maria Vazquez-Doles as an Associate Justice on the Appellate Term, Second Department’s Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts. The former hears appeals from cases originating in the Civil and Criminal Courts in Manhattan and the Bronx, while the latter hears appeals in cases originating in the City and Justice Courts in Long Island and Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties, as well as in Long Island’s District Courts. Justice Alpert is filling a vacancy created by the elevation of Justice Shlomo Hagler to the Appellate Division, First Department. Justice Vazquez-Doles succeeds Justice Elena Goldberg Velazquez upon her appointment to the Appellate Division, Second Department. The Appellate Term appointments were made with the approval of Appellate Division, First Department Presiding Justice Dianne T. Renwick and Appellate Division, Second Department Presiding Justice Hector D. LaSalle, respectively.

“We are grateful to have two such accomplished candidates to fill these key judicial vacancies. Justices Alpert and Vazquez-Doles are both recognized for their legal acumen, hard work, and unwavering commitment to the pursuit of justice. Their diverse experience, multitude of skills, and dedication to the law will serve them well in their respective new posts,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.

“Justices Alpert and Vazquez-Doles possess vast judicial expertise and are widely admired for their work ethic, fairness, and integrity. I am fully confident in their ability to fulfill their new judicial roles and pleased to welcome them to the Appellate Term bench,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George.

“Justice Alpert has served the Unified Court System with distinction for some 35 years, including 25 years on the New York County and Bronx County benches. His even temperament and varied judicial experience will be an asset to the Appellate Term, and I welcome his contributions,” said Presiding Justice Renwick.

Justice Alpert was appointed a Bronx County Acting Supreme Court Justice in 2017 and elected to the Bronx County Supreme Court bench in November 2021. He began his judicial career in July 2000 in New York City Housing Court and was later elected to Bronx Civil Court. Prior to his ascension to the bench, he served as a principal court attorney to then Supreme Court Justice Walter Tolub. He earned his law degree from New York Law School and is a former New York City Civil Court Judges Association vice president, Housing Court Judges Association treasurer, and Little League coach.

“It is a distinct honor to be appointed to this prestigious bench, for which I am grateful to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George, and Presiding Justice Renwick. I look forward to working with my judicial colleagues to carry on the Court’s tradition in administering fair and timely justice to those served by the Appellate Term, First Department’s First and Twelfth Judicial Districts,” said Justice Alpert.

Justice Vazquez-Doles has served as an Orange County Supreme Court Justice since 2014, previously presiding over a variety of cases as Monroe County Town Court Justice. Prior to serving as a Town Court Justice, she managed a solo practice, handling real estate and family law cases, among other matters. Earlier in her career, she was employed by the Unified Court System as a court attorney and later a principal law clerk in New York County Supreme Court’s Civil Term. She is a graduate of Touro College’s Jacob Fuchsberg Law Center, a co-founder and Board of Governors member of the Hudson Valley Hispanic Bar Association, and presently holds the title of Secretary within the Association of Supreme Court Justices of New York.

“I am honored and humbled by this appointment and thankful to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George, and Presiding Justice LaSalle for their faith in me and the work I bring to the position. I also wish to thank my family and the Hudson Valley community for their ongoing support and will work diligently with the other members of the Court to ensure the careful, impartial review of all matters in best addressing the justice needs of New York’s Hudson Valley and Long Island regions,” said Justice Vazquez-Doles.

“We are indebted to outgoing Justices Hagler and Goldberg Velazquez for their service and contributions to the Appellate Term, including Justice Hagler’s role as Presiding Justice, and congratulate them on their well-deserved appointments to New York’s Appellate Division,” added Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.



Justice Paul Alpert



Justice Maria Vazquez-Doles

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