



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

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Presiding Justice Appointed to New York’s Appellate Term, First Department’s 1st and 12th Judicial Districts

NEW YORK—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas today announced the appointment of Justice Ta-Tanisha D. James as Presiding Justice of the State Supreme Court’s Appellate Term, First Department’s First and Twelfth Judicial Districts, which hears appeals from cases originating in the Civil and Criminal Courts in Manhattan and the Bronx. Justice James succeeds Presiding Justice Shlomo Hagler, who was recently elevated to the Appellate Division, First Department. The appointment was made with the approval of Appellate Division, First Department Presiding Justice Dianne T. Renwick.

“Justice James is a widely admired member of New York’s bench and legal community, earning a reputation for her deep and broad legal knowledge, fairness, integrity, hard work, and even temperament. She brings extensive judicial and administrative experience to the role of Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department in New York’s First and Twelfth Judicial Districts. I look forward to working with her in her new capacity on the Court,” said Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas.

“Justice James’s commitment to equal justice and proven administrative abilities, combined with her legal acumen, astute judgment, collegial manner, and collaborative approach, will be assets to the Appellate Term, First Department’s First and Twelfth Judicial Districts and those served by this esteemed Court. I eagerly anticipate the technological and other enhancements to be implemented under her leadership,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George.

“Justice James’s extensive experience as an attorney and a judge, including as the former Presiding Justice of the Harlem Community Justice Center, makes her the ideal selection to serve as a Presiding Justice in the Appellate Term. She possesses a sharp legal mind, formidable administrative skills, strong work ethic, and warm, dynamic personality, all of which have served her and the public well in her years on the bench. I am confident that in her new role as Presiding Justice, New Yorkers will continue to benefit from her keen judgment and exemplary public service,” said Presiding Justice Dianne T. Renwick.

“I want to express my deep gratitude to Justice Hagler for his outstanding service to New York’s judiciary and his distinguished tenure as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department,” added Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. “We are fortunate to carry on benefiting from his judicial expertise and dedication to public service as a member of the State’s Appellate Division bench.”

Hon. Ta-Tanisha D. James has served as an Associate Justice on the Appellate Term, First Department (First and Twelfth Judicial Districts) since December 2022. She began her judicial career upon her November 2015 election to the New York County Civil Court, subsequently serving as a Family Court judge in Manhattan and later as the Presiding Justice of the Harlem Community Justice Center, where she supervised court operations and oversaw a calendar of civil cases. Prior to her ascension to the bench, Justice James worked intermittently as a principal law clerk in New York County Supreme Court. Earlier in her legal career, she was employed by Flemming Zulack Williamson Zauderer, LLP as a litigation associate, served as a senior law clerk to New York Court of Appeals Senior Associate Judge George B. Smith, and held the position of assistant managing attorney at the law firm of Kaye Scholer, LLP.

Justice James is a graduate of Fordham University School of Law and a member of various professional and civic groups, serving as co-chair of the Working Group on the Future of the Harlem Community Justice Center and sitting on the New York County Supreme Court's Guardianship Advisory Committee, among her other extra-judicial activities.

"I am profoundly honored and deeply grateful for this wonderful opportunity. I extend my sincere thanks to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George, and Presiding Justice Renwick for the trust they have placed in me; and to my predecessor, Presiding Justice Shlomo Hagler, who worked tirelessly and led this Court with distinction," said Justice James. "It is a true privilege to work every day alongside my stellar judicial colleagues and the Appellate Term's hardworking non-judicial personnel. I hope to serve this esteemed Court in the same dedicated capacity as those who came before me, honoring the strong tradition of its presiding judges."

Justice James's appointment is effective immediately.



Presiding Justice Ta-Tanisha D. James

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