



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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

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First Asian American Woman Named to Appellate Term, Second Department in the 2nd, 11th, and 13th Judicial Districts

NEW YORK CITY—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas today announced the appointment of Queens County Supreme Court Justice Karen Lin as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court, Second Department in the 2nd, 11th, and 13th Judicial Districts, which hears appeals from the New York City Civil and Criminal Courts in Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. The appointment was made in consultation with and consent of Appellate Division, Second Department Presiding Justice Hector D. LaSalle. The first Asian American woman to serve on this appellate bench, Justice Lin fills a vacancy created by the elevation of Justice Lisa S. Ottley to the Appellate Division, Second Department.

“Justice Lin is widely regarded for her legal acumen, fairness, humility and integrity. Her broad legal and judicial experience and thoughtful, equitable approach to justice will be of great benefit to the Appellate Term bench and the residents of Kings, Queens, and Richmond counties,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.

“Justice Lin has earned a stellar reputation for her sound judgment, collegiality, and passion for the law and justice. These fine qualities, combined with her varied expertise within the courts, will be assets to the Appellate Term,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George.

“Every day, I am deeply grateful for this privilege of serving on the bench. As the first woman of Asian descent appointed to the Appellate Term, Second Department, I am thankful to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas, First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George, and Presiding Justice LaSalle for their confidence,” said Justice Lin. “In hearing appeals from the New York City Civil and Criminal Courts, the Appellate Term may be the only appellate tribunal many everyday New Yorkers will ever encounter. I will endeavor to serve diligently, with justice, mercy, and humility.”

Justice Lin first joined the Unified Court System in 1999 as a Principal Law Clerk in New York County Supreme Court’s Civil Term. She was later appointed as a New York City Housing Court Judge in Manhattan and the Bronx, then served as a Court Attorney-Referee in Kings County Surrogate’s Court in Brooklyn prior to her 2022 election to the New York City Civil Court in Queens. She was subsequently elected to Queens County Supreme Court, where she has been sitting since January 2024, presiding over a range of civil cases including contractual disputes, residential foreclosures, and labor law, motor vehicle, and Article 75 proceedings, in addition to other matters.

Earning her law degree from Brooklyn Law School, Justice Lin worked as a law intern for the New York City Commission on Human Rights and the Center for Constitutional Rights. She began her legal career as a litigation associate for the law firm of Lansner & Kubitschek, later serving as Chief of Staff and District Counsel to then Senator Catherine Abate of New York's 27th District.

Justice Lin is highly active in the legal and greater community. Among her many extra-judicial activities, she is a Host Judge of the Sonia and Celina Sotomayer Judicial Internship Program, co-chairs the Joint 11th Judicial District's AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration and serves on the boards of the Asian American Law Fund of New York and the Asian American Judges Association of New York. She is also a frequent presenter on topics ranging from alternatives to guardianship to civic engagement to culture and identity.

Justice Lin is the recipient of numerous honors, including Brooklyn Law School's Distinguished Service to Public Interest Award, the Greater New York Taiwanese Assistance Association's Women of Courage Award, and the New York State Assembly's AAPI Heritage Award (District 25), in addition to other accolades.

"I want to express my deep gratitude to Justice Ottley for her outstanding service to New York's judiciary and her tenure as Associate Justice of the Appellate Term, Second Department in the 2nd, 11th, and 13th Judicial Districts and congratulate her on her appointment to the Appellate Division," added Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. "We are fortunate to carry on benefiting from her judicial expertise and dedication to public service as a member of the State's Appellate Division bench."

The appointment is effective immediately.



Justice Karen Lin

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