



# **NEWS RELEASE**

**New York State  
Unified Court System**

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

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**Date: March 13, 2026**

## **New Administrative Judge Named in the Capital Region's 3rd Judicial District**

**ALBANY, NEW YORK**—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas today announced the appointment of Hon. E. Danielle Jose-Decker as Administrative Judge in the Capital Region's Third Judicial District. The appointment was made in consultation with Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and Appellate Division, Third Department Presiding Justice Elizabeth A. Garry.

As Administrative Judge, Justice Jose-Decker will oversee trial court operations in the Third Judicial District, encompassing Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan, and Ulster counties. She succeeds Justice Christina L. Ryba, who was recently elevated to the Appellate Division, Third Department.

"Judge Jose-Decker's diverse judicial experience, intimate knowledge of court operations, and deep understanding of the legal needs of the urban, suburban, and rural communities served by the District make her an ideal fit for this crucial administrative post," said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. "An energetic, innovative leader and advocate for equity and inclusion, her expertise, unwavering commitment to equal justice, and problem-solving approach will greatly benefit the Third Judicial District and Capital Region residents."

First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George praised the appointment, stating, "Judge Jose-Decker is highly regarded for her legal acumen, hard work, and passionate pursuit of justice. Her breadth of legal and judicial experience — including her understanding of the challenges facing the region's rural communities — has duly prepared her to step into this new administrative role. I have every confidence that the District will be well-served by her vision, collaborative leadership, pragmatism, and community spirit."

Elected in November 2020 as Sullivan County's first woman County Court Judge, Judge Jose-Decker also presides as Surrogate and Acting Family Court Judge and serves as an Acting Supreme Court Justice. Since October 2024, she has overseen the Third Judicial District's 118 Town and Village Courts in her role as Supervising Judge, leading development of Centralized Arraignment Parts in both Albany and Sullivan counties.

A graduate of Mechanicville High School, where she was the valedictorian, Judge Jose-Decker earned a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from SUNY Plattsburgh. She began her career in advocacy with STOP Domestic Violence, later coordinating the Clinton County Coalition Against Domestic Violence. After earning her law degree from Albany Law School, she joined the Sullivan County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney, then practiced at Greenwald Law Offices in Goshen as a Senior Associate before co-founding Ricciani & Jose, LLP in Monticello. From 2004 to 2020, she handled a wide range of matters, including matrimonial, family,

criminal, civil litigation, and real estate, and served as municipal attorney for several towns and villages, including Monticello, Lumberland, Forestburgh, Tusten, and Wurtsboro.

Judge Jose-Decker is co-chair of the Third Judicial District's Gender Fairness Committee, serves as Secretary and Executive Board Member of the New York State County Court Judges' Association, and sits on the New York State Bar Association's President's Committee on Access to Justice. She is a member of the Association's Criminal Justice, Family Law, Municipal Law, and Judicial Sections and a past president of the Sullivan County Bar Association. Her honors include the Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan Counties' Distinguished Attorney Award and the Hudson Valley Legal Services' Partner in Justice Award. She has also taught business law at SUNY Sullivan and presented for the New York State Judicial Institute.

Judge Jose-Decker remains active in her community through service with the Monticello Rotary Club, Leadership Sullivan, and the Monticello Inter-faith Council, among other organizations.

"I am humbled and grateful for the trust Chief Administrative Judge Zayas and the New York State Courts' leadership team have placed in me," said Judge Jose-Decker. "Former Administrative Judges Ryba and Connolly set a remarkable example of dedicated service to this district, and I am honored to build on their work. This district — from the state capital to the most rural corners of our seven counties — is home to people who deserve courts that show up fully for all of them. I am ready to do that work for the Third Judicial District every single day."

Commending the appointment, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside New York City James P. Murphy noted, "Judge Jose-Decker's leadership and dedication make her an outstanding choice as Administrative Judge. Her appointment will serve to advance the District's work and our mission of fair, accessible justice."

Chief Administrative Judge Zayas also expressed his gratitude to Justice Ryba, stating, "I am thankful to Justice Ryba for her deep commitment and exemplary leadership as Administrative Judge and congratulate her upon her elevation to the Appellate Division, Third Department, where her expertise and passion for the law and justice will continue to benefit New Yorkers."

Her appointment is effective immediately.



Judge E. Danielle Jose-Decker