

Hon. Richard B. Lowe III

## NEW CHAIR APPOINTED TO THE FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS JUDICIAL COMMISSION

**On December 8, 2015, the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission** hosted a welcome reception for its new chairperson and newly appointed Commission members. Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman appointed Justice Richard B. Lowe III as chair of the Commission after the resignation of the previous chair Hon. Rose H. Sconiers upon her retirement as Associate Justice of the Appellate Division Fourth Department.

**Justice Richard B. Lowe III** currently serves as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term First Department. He has been a member of the Commission since 1997.

**The new Commission members, also appointed by Chief Judge Lippman,** hail from around the state and include the following: Hon. Lenora B. Foote, Esq., Magistrate, Buffalo Family Court; Hon. Craig D. Hannah, Buffalo City Court; Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department; Paul Kenny, Esq., Chief Clerk of the Appellate Term, Second Department; Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones, Criminal Court, Kings County, and Hon. Richard Rivera, Albany Family Court.

**The welcome reception was held in the Rotunda of New York State Supreme Court** at 60 Centre Street, New York. The ceremony began with the presentation of colors by the NYS Courts Ceremonial Unit and included a moving rendition of “America the Beautiful” and “God Bless America” performed by Court Officer Michelle Perry.

**Chief Judge Honorable Jonathan Lippman and Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks** provided remarks about the legacy of the Commission and the importance of its work improving diversity and promoting racial and ethnic fairness in the courts. Hon.

Rose H. Sconiers welcomed the new members of the Commission by providing them with an official Commission lapel pin.

**As new Commission chair, Judge Lowe remarked that** “through all our efforts we can move towards the courts continued efforts to function under its ideal of equal justice for all. I look forward during my tenure to further our mission and to continue to make a difference in the years ahead.”



Hon. Lenora B. Foote, Hon. Craig D. Hannah,  
 Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick, Hon. Jonathan  
 Lippman, Hon. Richard B. Lowe III, Paul Kenny,  
 Esq., Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones

### CONTENTS:

Farewell from Previous Chair .....	2
27th Annual Conference of the National Consortium .....	3
Conference Highlights .....	4-7
Conference Workshops.....	8-11
Commission Spotlight .....	12

---

## FAREWELL FROM THE PREVIOUS CHAIR

---



Hon. Rose H. Sconiers

**As I retire as Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department,** I am also stepping down as Chair of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission. My tenure as Chair has been most rewarding and I am confident that the mission of the Commission will continue under new leadership. In this newsletter, I review the hosting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Conference.

**One of my last duties as Chair was facilitating a major conference on racial and ethnic fairness in Buffalo, New York.**

**Commencing June tenth through the thirteenth,** the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission hosted the 27th Annual Conference of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts.

**This Conference came at an opportune time as recent events around the country** revealed that many of our nation's communities are primed for change, particularly in a justice system that would provide equal and fair

treatment to all people and be more responsive to all members of the community. It was therefore auspicious that our conference was set to examine systematic imbalances and injustices in the courts and to explore innovative and comprehensive solutions to address these concerns.

**We were proud to feature a Town Hall meeting** where national experts examined how our nation can progress towards a relationship of trust and respect between law enforcement and communities of color. This issue has been longstanding and threatens to undermine the tenets of our justice system unless it is addressed and resolved. This Conference was an opportunity to turn frustration and complacency into tactics to empower and unite communities for justice. Setting the tone for the Town Hall meeting was the keynote speaker, Rev. Al Sharpton of the National Action Network and the host of MSNBC's, PoliticsNation. He encouraged all present to stand up to all forms of injustices within their respective communities. He emphasized that it would take everyone working together to bring about the needed change in race relations.

**I was very pleased that the Conference was held in Buffalo, New York,** a region that was historically instrumental for enslaved Black Americans in their search for liberty and freedom through the Underground Railroad. I am most appreciative of the members of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, its staff, the National Center for State Courts' staff, local planning committee members, Tony Walters, the Director of the Workforce Diversity Office, Administrative Judge Paula Feroleto and her Eighth Judicial District staff, speakers, panelists, and moderators for all of their support and diligent efforts.

**Members of fellow Commissions from over thirty-seven states,** from as far away as Hawaii, shared their best practices, ideas and solutions that will enable all of the attendees to take back real tactic/solutions to their courts and communities. I believe that this Conference provided a viable agenda for the entire nation to follow. ■



# 27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE *of the* NATIONAL CONSORTIUM *on* RACIAL *and* ETHNIC FAIRNESS *in the* COURTS

JUNE 10-13, 2015 · BUFFALO, NEW YORK

**This year's the 27th Annual National Consortium** on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Conference), entitled, "Uniting Communities: Justice for All," was an opportunity for the host commission, the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, and thirty-seven other similar State Commissions to meet to address issues that confront our nation's Courts and communities in achieving racial and ethnic fairness. The Commissions are part of the National Center for Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts ("NCREFC") which operates under the auspice of the National Center for State Courts. For over two decades, the NCREFC has met annually for a national conference to explore and develop solutions to issues affecting people of color in the justice system. This was the second time that the Conference was held in New York State; the first in the city of Brooklyn, New York.

**At the Conference, workshops explored pressing issues such as zero tolerance in the schools,** domestic violence, alternatives to incarceration, the Voting Rights Act, innovations in peacemaking and immigration consequences of convictions. Also receiving focus was the issue of "implicit bias," a topic that has recently received national attention. Current research shows that hidden bias plays a role in decision-making unless one is made consciously aware of this influence.

**The centerpiece of the Conference was a Town Hall Meeting on improving law enforcement** and police relationships within communities of color. The panelists discussed the root of the tension between law enforcement and communities of color and suggested reforms and approaches to protect the inhabitants of these various communities. The proffered solutions focused primarily around building trust and respect.

**It is therefore evident that the promise of equality and justice begins with the perception of fairness,** and that as long as these issues are not discussed and meaningfully addressed, trust and respect for the outcome of judicial proceedings will not exist. Although many strides have been made by organizations like the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission and the NCREFC, these issues must continue to be at the forefront of any discussion dealing with law enforcement and the courts to ensure community confidence and trust in the justice system.

**The Conference was one of many steps to improve confidence and trust in the justice system.** To succeed, however, it will certainly take communities uniting and willing to focus and tackle these difficult, painful, and often time divisive issues in order to develop long term strategic solutions.

**The Conference panelists included national and local politicians, educators, judges, attorneys, law enforcement officials and community leaders.** The opening keynote speaker was the Reverend Al Sharpton and the dinner keynote was Pamela Meanes, Esq., president of the National Bar Association. The luncheon speakers included Dr. Gail C. Christopher, D.N., who spoke about the case for business equity and why organizations that maintained diversity as a priority prospered. The Friday luncheon speaker was Juan Cartagena, President and General Counsel of LatinoJustice Puerto-Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund ("PRLDEF"). Pictures from the conference can be viewed at the website, [www.nycourts.gov/ip/ethnic-fairness/](http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/ethnic-fairness/)

**For more information about the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the courts, please visit the website at [nationalconsortium.org](http://nationalconsortium.org)**

# CONFERENCE RECEPTION



Hon. Paula L. Feroletto, Administrative Judge, Eighth Judicial and Hon. Rose H. Sconiers, Chair, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Fourth Department

Hon. Michael Coccoma, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts outside of New York City and Lenore Foote-Beavers, Esq.



Hon. Rose H. Sconiers with students from Buffalo Law School



# OPENING SESSION

Reverend Al Sharpton, President of the National Action Network (seated first row third seat) and Hon. Edward Clark Clifton, Justice, Superior Court of Rhode Island, Providence, RI (first row last seat extreme right) with Franklin Williams Commission members



(Commission Members Left to Right)

(Seated) Hon. yvonne lewis, Hon. Rose H. Sconiers, [Reverend Al Sharpton- not Commission member], Hon. Richard B. Lowe, Hon. Kathie Davidson, [Hon. Edward Clark Clifton – not Commission member]  
 (Standing) Hon. Vanessa Bogan, Nadine C. Johnson, Esq., Linda Dunlap-Miller, Barry Clarke, Esq., Andrew T. Brown, Esq., Hon. Eduardo Padro, Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan, Adrienne Williams, Esq., [Karlene Dennis, Esq.] –staff



Mayor Byron W. Brown, Sandra Rivera, Esq., Nadine C. Johnson, Esq., Bishop William Franklin, Pastor Gloria Payne, Pete Hill, Hon. Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive



Members of the Iroquois Native Dance Group and Pete Hill, Community & Cultural Services Director, Native American Community Services

# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS THURSDAY

## WELCOMING REMARKS

Welcoming remarks were presented by **Hon. Rose H. Sconiers**, Commission chair, **Hon. yvonne lewis**, chair of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, **Hon. Mark C. Poloncarz**, Erie County Executive, and **Hon. Byron W. Brown**, Mayor of Buffalo, New York.

On Wednesday night, after the opening reception, Niagara Falls was lit up in the color blue in honor of the Commission and the Consortium Conference. We are grateful for the support of the upstate community which contributed to the success of the Conference.



Reverend Al Sharpton addressing audience

## OPENING KEYNOTE SESSION

Opening Keynote Speaker **Reverend Al Sharpton** challenged the attendees to become more involved in their communities and to take a stand in making a difference by challenging injustice wherever it occurs. Reverend Sharpton is the host of “PoliticsNation with Al Sharpton” on MSNBC and President of the National Action Network, and has been very involved with the families of the recently killed in incidences of alleged police brutality – a role that he says he only takes on at the behest of the families of those deceased.

## LUNCHEON SPEAKER

The luncheon speaker for Thursday, June 11, 2015 was **Dr. Gail C. Christopher, D.N.** Vice President for Policy and Senior Advisor of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Dr. Christopher spoke about the “business case for equity.” She educated the audience regarding how organizations have better production and success when there is diversity.



Nadine Johnson, Esq., Dr. Gail C. Christopher, D.N., Lana Benatovich, Alphonso O'Neil-White

## TOWN HALL MEETING ON IMPROVING POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Recent protests across the country has brought to the forefront the issue of distrust between the police and various communities. The Town Hall meeting included national civil and human rights advocates, professors, law enforcement officials and members of the community-at-large, who all came together to explore reforms and solutions for this issue of distrust between the police and communities of color in its varied manifestations.

Among the issues raised and probed was the building of a constant working relationship with the community (wherever situated), recognizing the humanity of each community, developing programs that decrease the use of force in police encounters, examining stop and frisk procedures in all communities and learning mutual respect for each entity.

The Town Hall meeting convener was the **Reverend Darius G. Pridgen**, Common Council President in Buffalo, New York. The panelists included local leaders in law enforcement including Buffalo Deputy Police Commissioner Kimberly L. Beaty and Erie County District Attorney Frank A. Sedita, III, Mayor Paul A. Dyster, Niagara Falls, New York, Professor Gloria Browne- Marshall, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice

## TOWN HALL MEETING CONTINUED



Dorrell Foster

L to R lower level – Professor Lory Dance, Ph. D., Robert J. DeSena, Mayor Paul A. Dyster, Reinaldo Rivera, Jr., Professor Gloria Browne-Marshall, Deputy Police Commissioner Kimberly L. Beaty,

L to R upper level – Reverend Darius G. Pridgen, District Attorney Frank A. Sedita III, Anthony Miranda

Administration, John Jay College Criminal Justice and Professor Lory Dance, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology and of the Institute for Ethnic Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; national leaders, Anthony Miranda, President of the National Latino Officers Association, Reinaldo Rivera, Jr., National Program Manager, Community Relations Service (CRS), United States Department of Justice; and student, Dorrell Foster, Student, Buffalo Urban League. ■

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS FRIDAY

### PLENARY SESSION

**Professor Rachel Godsil, Professor of Law from Seton Hall University,** presented an enlightening and powerful session entitled, “Promoting Fairness in the Courts: Addressing Implicit Bias, Racial Anxiety, and Stereotype Threat.” Professor Godsil reviewed current research on the effects of unintentional bias and shared fascinating discoveries on the consequences to the persons involved.

The session explored the means to address implicit bias by becoming aware of one’s implicit bias and having reminders to overcome the same.

We also encourage everyone to take the Harvard Implicit bias test at <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/> You can also listen to Professor Godsil’s opening remarks from the session at: <http://www.nycourts.gov/admin/amici/>



Professor Rachel Godsil



Juan Cartagena, Esq.

### LUNCHEON SPEAKER

**The luncheon speaker for Friday, June 12, 2015 was Juan Cartagena, Esq.,** President and General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF. Attorney Cartagena gave a speech about the importance of challenging discrimina-

tion against immigrants and persons of color, and postulated that the best way to do that was through advocacy and litigation.

**Mr. Cartagena also made note of the contributions of immigrant communities** and the need for ensuring fair and equitable treatment for poor and marginalized people, particularly Puerto Rican and Latino communities who, despite their long standing presence in America, continue to be underrepresented and underserved.

### AWARDS BANQUET KEY NOTE SPEAKER

**The dinner keynote address was by Pamela J. Meanes, Esq.**, President of the National Bar Association and Partner at Thompson & Coburn LLP. Ms. Meanes reflected upon the recent protests across the country that have brought to the forefront the issue of distrust between the "police and the community." She examined various areas where people of color have long felt mistreated. This perception of injustice ranged from the disparate sentencing of people of color in the courts, to the harsh treatment of school-aged children for minor infractions, to the suppression of the right to vote even when one is eligible to do so. She stressed that until these issues are addressed and all people are considered valuable and given fair treatment and opportunity, the principles of liberty and justice will be tainted.

**The Conference closed with the award presentation for those who not only supported**, but advanced diversity and racial and ethnic fairness in the courts. Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam, Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, presented Hon. A. Gail Prudenti, (former Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York) with the Outstanding Leadership Award. Hon. Samuel L. Green, retired Associate Judge, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, presented Hon. Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York, with the prestigious Franklin H. Williams Legacy Award. Judge Prudenti and Judge Lippman have been supportive of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission throughout their tenures with the court system. Although we still have work left to do, their dedication to the principles of justice and equality has helped to make the court system more culturally sensitive and racially diverse. ■



Pamela J. Meanes, Esq.



Hon. Jonathan Lippman



Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam and  
Hon. A. Gail Prudenti



Hon. Samuel L. Green

# CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS



JoAnne Page, Esq. at podium, Professor Monica P. Wallace, Robert Convissar, Esq. and Trini Ross, Esq.

## LOCK' EM UP AND THROW AWAY THE KEY: AT WHAT COST TO SOCIETY AND THE IDEALS OF JUSTICE?

**This panel explored the impact of alternatives to incarceration programs (ATIs)** on prison populations in the New York State and Federal Court Systems, reviewed the nexus between increased utilization of ATIs and the move to repeal/modify the Nelson Rockefeller Drug Laws, and examined the United States Attorney General's Smart on Crime Initiative.

**The moderator was Trini Ross, Esq.**, United States Attorney, Chief of Fraud and Corruption Section, Western District of New York, US Department of Justice. The panelists included JoAnne Page, Esq., CEO & President, The Fortune Society; Professor Monica P. Wallace, University of Buffalo Law School; and Robert Convissar, Esq., Chief Defender Administrator, Assigned Counsel Plan.

## UNDERSTANDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; RECENT TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES

**This workshop discussed the recent trends in domestic violence and child abuse**, including a view from the medical perspective and the relevant laws affecting the medical profession. The panel also discussed statistics on homicides and domestic violence incidents, as well as teen and pre-teen dating abuse.

**The moderator was Mary Travers Murphy, Executive Director, Family Justice Center for Erie County, New York.** The panelists included Judith Olin, Esq., Director, Lee Gross Anthonie Child Advocacy Center; Dr. Mathew Withiam-Leitch, M.D., PhD, Associate Professor in Department of Family Medicine, University of Buffalo Medical School.



Dr. Matthew Withiam-Leitch, Mary Travers Murphy, Esq. and Judith Olin, Esq.



## ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN THE COURTS



Hon. Fern A. Fisher

**Justice Fern Fisher, Director, NYS Courts Access to Justice Program and Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, NYC Courts**, discussed how to ensure justice in civil and criminal matters for court users of all incomes, backgrounds and special needs. Justice Fisher reviewed available resources including self-help services, pro bono programs, technological tools, and the securing of stable and adequate non-profit and governmental funding for civil and criminal legal services programs. Justice Fisher was joined by Andrew B. Isenberg, the Eighth



Andrew B. Isenberg

Judicial District Executive, who discussed initiatives in his district.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT: FROM SELMA TO SHELBY – COMMUNITIES UNITED TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE

**A half century after the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the seminal “Bloody Sunday”** march on the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma, Alabama, voting rights in America today have been notably threatened by the 2013 Supreme Court Decision in Shelby County (Alabama) v Holder. This panel examined the impact of voting rights legislation on various communities of color and the solutions and proposals to effectuate voting rights equity and equality in our nation.

**The moderator was the Hon. Jenny Rivera, Associate Judge, New York State Court of Appeals.** The panelists included Leah Aden, Esq., NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., New York, NY; Juan Cartagena, Esq., President and General Counsel, LatinoJustice Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Educational Fund “PRLDEF”; Joel West Williams, Esq., Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund, Washington, D.C.; Susan Lerner, Esq., Executive Director, Common Cause NY.



Leah Aden, Esq., Juan Cartagena, Esq.,  
Susan Lerner, Esq., Joel West Williams, Esq., Hon. Jenny Rivera,

## CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS *CONTINUED*

### ZERO TOLERANCE IN THE SCHOOLS: THE CURE THAT CREATED AN EPIDEMIC

This workshop explored how an initially well intentioned policy known as **Zero Tolerance in our Schools** – a policy implemented to maintain safe schools for our children – created a school to prison pipeline with devastating consequences for adolescent school children of color. The panelists also tendered solutions to curtail this "presumably" unintended but obviously devastating consequence.

**The moderator was Hon. Eduardo Padro, Supreme Court Justice, First Judicial District.** The panelists included Philip Rumore, President, Buffalo Teachers Federation; Soffiyah Elijah, Executive Director, The Correctional Association of N.Y., Joshua Laub, Esq., Director of Youth Development for District 88, Office of Safety and Youth Development, NYC Dept. of Education; Ajay Saini, Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office, Barbara A. Seals Nevergold, PhD, Co-founder, Uncrowned Queens Institute.



Philip Rumore, Soffiyah Elijah, Esq., Barbara A. Seals Nevergold, PhD, Joshua Laub, Esq., Ajay Saini, Esq.



Ajay Saini, Esq. seated,  
Hon. Eduardo Padro (at podium)

### INNOVATIONS IN PEACEMAKING: A GRASS ROOT PERSPECTIVE

This panel discussed peacemaking as a traditional approach to justice within the Native American Community and the difference between peacemaking and mediation.



Hon. LaMarr K. Spruce, Andrew Thomas, Sarah Reckess and Daniel Weitz, Esq.

**The moderator was Daniel M. Weitz, Esq., NYS Unified Court System,** Deputy Director, Division of Professional and Court Services/State ADR Coordinator. The panelists included Sarah Reckess Esq., Director, Syracuse Office and

Tribal Courts Technical Assistance, Center for Court Innovation, Andrew Thomas, Senior Project Manager, City Manager's Office-CDBG, Certified Florida Supreme Court Mediator and Mediator for the United States Postal Service, Sanford Florida, and Hon. LaMarr K. Spruce, Peacemaking Judge, Seneca Nation of Indians, Allegany Territory.

## ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES ON IMMIGRANTS WITHIN A STATE COURT SYSTEM

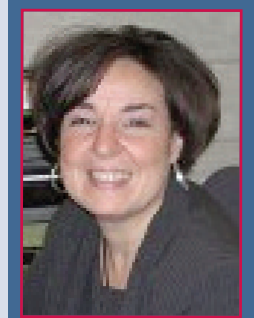
This workshop explored the various immigration consequences that may be triggered by criminal and family court dispositions. Highlighted was the need for developing resources and legal representation to address immigration challenges experienced by immigrants and their family members. This session also provided suggestions for identifying and assisting human trafficking victims with organizations such as the New York Asian Women's Center.



Lisa Schreibersdorf



Yanfei Shen



Macri Joanne

The moderator was **Joanne Macri, Esq., Director of Regional Initiatives, State of New York/Office of Indigent Legal Services.** The panelists included Lisa Schreibersdorf, Esq., Executive Director, Brooklyn Defender Services and Yanfei Shen, Esq., Legal Services Manager, New York Asian Women's Center. ■

## RECENTLY ELECTED



**Hon. Christina Ryba** was elected New York State Supreme Court Justice in the Third Judicial District (Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Greene, Schoharie, Ulster, and Sullivan Counties).

**She is the first person of color elected to New York State Supreme Court in that District.**

The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission invites you to follow us on Twitter @NYCourtsFHW



## Commission Spotlight



**Pamela Browne** is currently the president of the New York State Court Clerks Association, a position that she has held since February 2015.

**As a child, Ms. Browne remembers both of her parents admonishing their children to "Get your education;** that's the one thing that can't be taken away from you."

She recalls her father telling her that his father had insisted that his children read to him, and that when he had overheard his older brother reading to their father an article about the Scottsboro Boys, he had been inspired to become a lawyer. Although her father held a Master's degree in International Law, jobs for African American lawyers were not available in 1953, so he opted to become a civil servant, first as a court officer, then a court clerk.

**For years, her father said to her, "Go civil service - you can't beat it."** Like most children, she confesses that she thought that "she knew better than the old man" but she came to realize that he was right and knew that she "was going to be a lifer."

**Ms. Browne followed in her father's legacy and joined the Court system.** She entered the Academy on October 3, 1988 and graduated on October 31st with her "beaming" father at the graduation. She notes that she was a Uniformed Court Officer (UCO) in New York County Family Court and thereafter promoted to a Supreme Court Officer (SCO) at 100 Centre Street. In March of 1993, she was promoted to Senior Court Clerk at 60 Centre Street, and subsequently elevated to Associate Court Clerk, then Principal Court Clerk.

**Ms. Browne notes that in her various positions in the Court system,** she was always a member of a union, but asserts that "at one point, I was dissatisfied with some of the policies of my union and I spoke out against these policies at several union meetings. As a result, I came to the attention of Joseph Walsh who was putting together a slate to run for the New York State Court Clerks Association's Executive Board in 2005."

**When Joe approached her, she recalls that she "thought about it for a few days** and decided I had to put my money where my mouth was and ran as part of his team." She was elected Secretary of the union. Indeed, Ms. Browne states, "I am in awe when I realize that my tenure as President of this great union began with me opening my mouth in dissent at union meetings."

**Ms. Browne, in her modesty, states** that "by virtue of subsequent retirements and resignations, I became the Second Vice President of the union, and that in 2015, when President Joseph Walsh retired and First Vice President Rocco DeSantis chose not to ascend to the presidency, I became president." We take charge of our editorial privilege to interject that we strongly suspect that her union colleagues might attribute her leadership skills, commitment, and efforts on behalf of the union as the propelling forces behind her ascendancy in their ranks.

**Ms. Browne holds a Bachelor of Science degree in "Manpower Management and Labor Relations,"** a distinction that she notes makes it "ironic that I am sitting on this side of the table, but I really wouldn't have it any other way."

**Sadly, Ms. Browne's dad passed away in 2000** but she tells us that she finds comfort in knowing that "he's looking down at me and smiling proudly."

**OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION**  
**Franklin H. Williams**  
**Judicial Commission**  
**25 Beaver Street, Room 861**  
**New York, New York 10004**

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Hon. Richard B. Lowe, *Chair*  
Hon. Troy K. Webber, *1st Vice Chair*  
Sandra Rivera, Esq., *2nd Vice Chair*  
Hon. Vanessa Bogan  
T. Andrew Brown, Esq.  
Hon. George B. Daniels  
Hon. Kathie Davidson  
Linda Dunlap-Miller, J.D., MSW  
Lenora B. Foote, Esq.  
Hon. Craig D. Hannah  
Nadine C. Johnson, Esq.  
Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick  
Paul Kenny, Esq.  
Lenore Kramer, Esq.  
Hon. yvonne lewis  
Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan  
Lieutenant Clemont Mack  
Hon. Stephen T. Miller  
Hon. Eduardo Padro  
Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones  
Hon. Richard Rivera  
Hon. Robert E. Torres  
Adrienne Williams, Esq.  
Hon. Rose H. Sconiers, *Chair Emeritus*  
Hon. Lewis L. Douglass, *Chair Emeritus*  
Joyce Y. Hartsfield, *Executive Director*  
Karlene Dennis, *Associate Counsel*