



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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Chief Administrative Judge Zayas Announces the Release of Engaging “Careers in the Courts” Videos

*New, Informative Video Series Is an Outgrowth of the New York State
Court System’s Community Outreach and Civic Engagement Efforts*

NEW YORK—To better acquaint New Yorkers and others with the wide range of court career opportunities available across the State—with the aim to further expand and diversify the pool of potential job candidates—Chief Administrative Judge Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George today announced the release of an engaging “Careers in the Courts” video series, narrated in part by Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Edwina G. Richardson. The videos, which highlight some of the many rewarding positions in the New York State Courts in fields as diverse as law enforcement, technology, library science, and social work, among others, are available online at <https://cmi.nycourts.gov/vod/WowzaPlayer/ucs/2024-CareersInTheCourts> and on YouTube (see YouTube links below).

The new Careers in the Courts video series began as an idea to create a film to inform students and others in the Capital Region about court career opportunities in the Albany area. Supervising Family Court Judge Richard Rivera of the Capital Region’s Third Judicial District—who now serves as Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Court Matters—first proposed the idea. His idea evolved into a statewide, grant-funded project, with the video series announced today produced through Youth FX. Youth FX is an Albany-based organization that seeks to empower young people of color in neighborhoods that have been historically underserved by teaching them digital media technology and then offering them paid internships with the entity’s production company, Rogue FX. The interns, working with experienced professional videographers at Rogue FX, were able to utilize the skills they acquired through Youth FX to produce these videos for the court system.

“I am very excited about our new Careers in the Courts video series. It will go a long way in spreading the word about the Court System’s important work and the many, varied employment opportunities—from entry to senior-level positions—available within the courts that offer meaningful work, competitive pay, and generous benefits, and support the New York State Courts’ critical mission to deliver equal justice under the law. These engaging videos also demonstrate the Court System’s deep commitment to ensuring both that our workforce reflects New York’s rich diversity and that all who enter or serve in our courts are treated with dignity and professionalism,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. “I am particularly gratified that these newly released videos, having been produced by young people from under-represented communities, exemplify the positive impact of our court-community partnerships and civic engagement efforts in demystifying the Court System’s role and structure and enhancing public trust and confidence in the State’s judicial branch.”

“As they say, ‘a picture is worth a thousand words,’ indicating the potential reach of these engaging videos in raising awareness about the many career paths offered by the New York State Courts and attracting the best, the brightest, and the broadest diversity of job applicants,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George. “Along with our gratitude to Judge Richardson for her role as narrator, we are thankful to Judge Rivera for his vision and to the Third Judicial District Careers in the Courts Committee for turning the project into a statewide endeavor. For several months, Amelia Lepore Sessions, now the District Executive, the District’s Jessica Douglas and Anna Wilkinson, and John Caher, of the courts’ Communications team, worked closely with the production crew to capture on film what Judge Rivera envisioned. I am so proud of how wonderfully the courts are represented by those court family members featured in the series, and greatly impressed with the top-notch videos produced in partnership with Youth FX/ Rogue FX.”

“It was both a privilege and delight to participate in the making of the Careers in the Courts video series, which not only highlights the array of career options available within the New York State Courts but also sheds light on the impactful work of our State’s judicial branch,” said Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Richardson. “I thoroughly enjoyed working with the exemplary court professionals featured in the video series—who did a stellar job of representing our hardworking, dedicated court family—and with the young filmmakers whose talent and creativity shines through in these lively, informative videos.”

“It has been extremely rewarding to watch my initial idea—to make a video informing local students, job seekers and others about court career opportunities in the Capital Region—grow into a statewide endeavor that will serve to raise public awareness about the Court System’s vital mission and the range of job opportunities available in courthouses and court facilities across the State,” said Judge Rivera. “I couldn’t be more pleased with the quality of the Careers in the Courts video series and am deeply grateful to the many individuals who, whether from behind the scenes or in front of the camera, participated in this collaborative effort. I would especially like to thank and commend the young people of Youth FX for doing such a wonderful job and for their professionalism, dedication, and pride in this work.”

Following are synopses of the six videos comprising the Careers in the Courts series, and the YouTube link to each video.

Careers in the Courts: Overview — This film, narrated by Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Edwina G. Richardson, features interviews with a diverse, eclectic group of employees in various court locations who explain what they do, why it matters, and the benefits of working for the court system. <https://youtu.be/lwVI4mlgFkl>

Careers in the Courts: Court Officer — In this segment, Court Officer Jennifer Pacheco explains her role and why serving in this capacity is so professionally rewarding. “Court officers maintain security and courtroom decorum, providing safety for the customers who come in, as well as the staff.” <https://youtu.be/4mUNvt6whdg>

Careers in the Courts: Resource Coordinator — Here, Craig Stratton, at the time the resource coordinator with Albany’s Supreme Court and County Court, discusses his work helping those with substance abuse issues who find themselves entangled in the criminal justice system. “Individuals have come into our court that really were in dire straits, in total desperation with no hope ... I've seen them reunite with their families, I've seen them obtain employment, I've seen them even go back to college and obtain degrees.” <https://youtu.be/0asWhlpA2ac>

Careers in the Courts: Interpreting — Court interpreter Lourdes Cardona explains how important it is for people who come to court to find someone who speaks their language. “At the moment you speak the language, they know that they are going to be heard and they are going to be able to tell their story, to ask for the remedies that they're expecting the court to provide for them.” <https://youtu.be/WZ9xEhlwuF8>

Careers in the Courts: Administrative — Pearl Yu-Rodriguez, senior court clerk, and George Sanchez, clerical assistant, explain their respective jobs in three words, “to help people.” <https://youtu.be/4vEydUjxlvE>

Careers in the Courts: Court Reporter — Court reporter Cyndi West discusses the importance and variety of her work. “It's always something different. You can come in one day and you're doing a murder trial. You can come in the next day, you're doing a trial in Surrogate’s Court or an adoption. The next day you could be doing a contested matrimonial. It's fascinating. It's never dull and I absolutely love it.” <https://youtu.be/rLlqN3XPeOg>

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