



MEDIA ADVISORY

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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**Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge**

www.nycourts.gov/press

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Members Named to New Advisory Council On Immigration Issues in Family Court

NEW YORK – Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks today named the members of an advisory group that will work to address the concerns of judges, the bar, litigants and others with regard to a topic of increasing public interest – immigration-related issues arising in Family Court. These include access to immigration benefits such as Special Immigrant Juvenile Status; potential adverse immigration consequences for parties in delinquency, neglect and other Family Court proceedings; and language, cultural and other justice barriers that litigants may face.

The new Advisory Council on Immigration Issues in Family Court is made up of individuals with expertise relating to the adjudication of Family Court matters in which federal immigration law is relevant. Council members include statewide representatives from the courts, state government, legal services providers, law firms, law schools and community-based organizations, with New York City Family Court Administrative Judge Edwina Richardson-Mendelson and Hofstra University School of Law Professor Theo S. Liebmann serving as co-chairs.

Among other goals, the group will work to enhance training programs to better prepare Family Court judges to manage proceedings involving immigration-related issues; foster communication and coordination among the justice system players and other stakeholders to streamline case processing and ensure the fair administration of justice in these complex matters; and advance public education and other programs targeting the needs of litigants in these cases. Members of the advisory council will engage in a variety of outreach and education efforts, also proposing new court rules and legislative reforms to address relevant issues.

A membership roster of the Advisory Council on Immigration Issues in Family Court follows.

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES IN FAMILY COURT

Co-Chairs:

Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson
Administrative Judge of New York City Family Court

Theo S. Liebmann, Esq.
Clinical Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Programs
Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University

Members:

Bree Bernwanger, Esq.
Feerick Center for Social Justice, Fordham School of Law

Hon. Lisa Bloch-Rodwin
Family Court, Erie County

Margaret Burt, Esq.
Counsel, New York Public Welfare Association and Attorney for Children

Anne Erickson
President and CEO, Empire Justice Center

Karen Freedman, Esq.
Executive Director, Lawyers for Children, Inc.

Terry Lawson, Esq.
Director, Family and Immigration Unit
Legal Services of New York City-Bronx

Joanne Macri, Esq.
Director of Regional Initiatives, New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services

Kathleen Maloney, Esq.
The Legal Aid Society-Immigration Law Unit

Hon. Nicolette Pach
Retired Family Court Judge, Suffolk County
Pach & Kunken

Andrea Panjwani, Esq.
Managing Attorney, My Sister's Place Immigration Practice

Carmen Rey, Esq.
Deputy Director, Immigration Intervention Project
Sanctuary for Families

Professor Sara Rogerson, Esq.
Director, Immigration Law Clinic and Law Clinic & Justice Center
Albany Law School

Walter Rühle, Esq.
Director of Immigration Services
Legal Aid Society of Rochester

Maureen Schad, Esq.
Pro Bono Counsel
Chadbourne & Parke LLP

Amelia T.R. Starr, Esq.
Partner
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Eve Stotland, Esq.
Director, Legal Services Center
The Door

Trinh Tran, Esq.
Staff Attorney
Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Families

Lee Wang, Esq.
Skadden Fellow
Immigrant Defense Project

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