



Timothy C. Idoni

Westchester County Clerk

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Westchester Clerk Idoni Named to New Courts Commission

Commission to Reimagine New York's Courts Convened by Chief Judge DiFiore

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had a dramatic and irreversible effect on the way we live, work, and do business. Our State courts have not been immune. To be proactive in response, New York State Chief Judge Janet DiFiore has announced the creation of a new commission to examine the ways to improve our court system. The Commission to Reimagine the New York Courts will have a membership of some of the brightest minds in the legal profession of New York State. One will be Westchester County Clerk Timothy C. Idoni.

The commission will take an in-depth look at all aspects of how the court system runs and how any technological, structural, and regulatory changes or any other innovations might be helpful. Both short term and long term changes will be recommended.

County Clerk Idoni was an obvious choice to be part of the commission. Not only does his role of County Clerk require him to work closely with the court system, but updating his department's technology has been a cornerstone of his time as Clerk. Since taking office on January 1, 2006, Clerk Idoni led Westchester from antiquated technological applications to creating systems that now allow for the filing of documents electronically saving hundreds of hours of time and millions of dollars in hard and soft costs. Eighty-five percent (85%) of civil actions are now being e-filed, with current changes to raise that number to ninety-percent (90%). These changes have helped lead to increased customer satisfaction and left the Clerk's office more prepared to operate during the Pandemic, by allowing work to be filed off-site, reducing travel time, improving the environment and saving labor costs. Over the past twelve years, Idoni's changes have saved the County of Westchester over \$ 36 million, mostly in personnel costs where his office staffing has been reduced from 110 to 65.

"It is an honor to be named to the commission by Chief Judge DiFiore and I thank her for her confidence," stated Westchester County Clerk Idoni. "We cannot miss this opportunity; the court system is too important. Speedy and fair justice is imperative to democracy. Change is upon us and the courts will be modernized to meet that challenge. "

The Commission will include five committees to address all areas of future courts. They include Online Courts, Technology, Terms and Appeals, Regulatory Renovations, and Structural Innovations. Idoni has been asked to co-chair the Structural Innovations Committee, which will study and offer recommendations regarding interactions and daily operations of the Supreme, County, Family, and Surrogate Courts. It will include review of the ways court interact, technological innovations to reduce the cost of courts as well as increased usage of electronic filing of cases. His co-chair will be the Hon. Leslie Stein, Associate Justice of the New York State Court of Appeals.

Others named to the commission are a distinguished group of judges, lawyers, academics and technology experts. They include:

Chair

Henry M. Greenberg, partner, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Immediate Past President, New York State Bar Association

Members

Hon. Ariel E. Belen, Retired Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, and Administrative Judge of the Supreme Court, Kings County

Mark A. Berman, partner, Ganfer Shore Leeds & Zauderer, LLP

T. Andrew Brown, managing partner, Brown Hutchinson LLP; Vice Chancellor, New York State Board of Regents; president-elect, New York State Bar Association

Hon. Anthony Cannataro, Administrative Judge, Civil Court of the City of New York

Mylan L. Denerstein, partner, Gibson Dunn LLP

Hon. Craig J. Doran, Administrative Judge for the Seventh Judicial District

Richard A. Edlin, Vice-Chairman, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Robert J. Giuffra, Jr., partner, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Dennis E. Glazer, retired partner, Davis Polk & Wardwell

Hon. Timothy C. Idoni, County Clerk of Westchester

Hon. Edwina G. Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives

Seymour James, partner, Barkett Epstein Kearon Aldea & LoTurco

Brad S. Karp, chairman, Paul, Weiss

Roger Juan Maldonado, partner, Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP; immediate past President of the New York City Bar Association

Jack Newton, chief executive officer & co-founder, Clio

Sharon M. Porcellio, member, Bond Schoeneck & King; co-chair, Advisory Group to the New York State Federal Judicial Council

Paul C. Saunders, chair, New York State Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law

Arthur J. Semetis, president, Arthur J. Semetis, P.C.

Paul Shechtman, partner, Bracewell

Michael A. Simons, Dean, St. John's Law School

Madeline Singas, Nassau County District Attorney

Hon. Leslie E. Stein, Associate Judge, New York Court of Appeals

Ari Ezra Waldman, Professor of Law and Computer Science, Northeastern University School of Law and Khoury College of Computer Sciences (as of 7/1/20)

The commission will also be taking input from the community and numerous state-wide legal and professional organizations who work within the court system.