

JALBCA + OCA | Thriving Together: Building Strength & Wellness in the Face of Illness

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 12:00-1:00pm & 1:00-2:00pm

via Microsoft Teams

Hon. Judy H. Kim – JALBCA, Co-President (Judges' Division)

Email: jhkim@nycourts.gov

In November 2016, Justice Judy H. Kim became the first Korean American elected judge in New York State. As an elected Civil Court judge, she served in the Manhattan Criminal Court for two years and then returned to New York County Civil Court in January 2019. In January 2022, she was elevated to Acting Justice of the Supreme Court in the New York State Supreme Court, New York County and presides over cases in the City IAS Part.

Justice Kim has been an active JALBCA Board member since 2010. She was first introduced to the organization after an introduction was made by a mutual friend to a former judge and current board member who graciously agreed to speak with her immediately after she learned she had breast cancer at the age of 37. At that time, she was an associate counsel at an agency and found it comforting to speak to someone about her situation and to obtain some important information, including that her medical insurance covered breast cancer treatment and care if received from a hospital considered a "Center for Excellence". With this knowledge, she received treatment and since then all post-cancer care from one of these centers.

As a Board member, Justice Kim immediately joined the Survivor Committee and Grants Committee. Later in 2015, she re-joined the board as a member and then as Secretary in 2018. In 2022, she served as the Moderator of the 25th Annual Ellen P. Hermanson Memorial Symposium and in 2023 she served as Executive Producer of the 26th Annual Ellen P. Hermanson Memorial Symposium. Justice Kim continues to serve on the Grants Committee that reviews and recommends the approval of mission-oriented organizations for grants and as co-chair of the Programs Committee.

Justice Kim previously served on the board of the Stonewall Community Development Corporation (a non-profit that helps LGBTQ+ seniors find affordable, supportive and safe housing) and on the boards of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the Korean American Lawyers of Greater New York (KALAGNY) and the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY). Currently, she serves on the board of the Korean American Community Foundation (KACF) and is a member of the New York City Bar Association's Diversity Pipeline Initiative Committee and its State Courts of Superior Jurisdiction Committee.

Hon. Linda Capitti – JALBCA, Co-Vice President (Judges' Division)

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Linda Capitti is currently an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court, having been designated by Chief Administrative Judge Joseph Zayas in January 2025. Judge Capitti is currently assigned to New York County Supreme Court where she presides in a matrimonial part. Previously, she was appointed as an Interim Civil Court Judge in 2019 and as a Family Court Judge in 2020. Judge Capitti was assigned to

Kings County Family Court where she handled child protective and juvenile delinquency proceedings. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Capitti was a court attorney to the Honorable Tandra L. Dawson in New York County Integrated Domestic Violence Court and Bronx County Family Court where she worked on cases involving domestic violence. Judge Capitti serves as a Vice-President of the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA) and is a member of the Board of Directors. As a two-time breast cancer survivor, Judge Capitti has an inimitable perspective as to the issues that cancer patients and survivors face before, during, and after treatment.

Lauren Crane, Esq. – JALBCA, Assistant Treasurer & Support Group Co-Chair

Email: Lauren.crane@bendercrane.com

Lauren Crane, Esq. is a partner at Bender & Crane, LLP, a distinguished law firm concentrating in matrimonial and family law. With over 20 years of experience, Lauren has built a reputation for her expertise in navigating complex family law matters. Her practice is marked by a commitment to resolving disputes through strategic negotiation and settlement, though she is also an accomplished litigator with experience in both trial and appellate courts.

Lauren is an appointed mediator in New York County and has completed extensive mediation training focused on divorce and child custody issues. In recognition of her skills and experience, she was selected in February 2020 to serve as a Mediator on the New York County Supreme Court's Roster of Matrimonial Mediators.

Her deep knowledge, coupled with a compassionate and results-driven approach, allows Lauren to effectively advocate for her clients, whether in or out of the courtroom.

After surviving breast cancer in 2020, Lauren became involved in JALBCA. Lauren is the co-chair of the Audit Committee and has been the Co-Chair of the Support Group with JALBCA since its inception in 2021.

Lisa Dack – OCA, Human Resources Benefits

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Lisa Dack has over 20 years of experience in UCS Human Resources, specializing in the Office of Judiciary Benefits. She has developed extensive expertise in managing and effectively understanding insurance benefits, administering NYSHIP claims processes, and navigating the complexities of employee benefits. Lisa's deep knowledge and hands-on experience allow her to provide valuable guidance and support in the ever-evolving landscape of benefits.

Nicole L. Zayas – Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

Email: info@arrivingfullcircle.com | [LinkedIn](#)

Nicole Zayas is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 15 years of experience serving at-risk populations and leading ground-breaking initiatives across healthcare, education, and the criminal legal system. She is recognized for her innovative contributions to program development, system reform, and advocacy for vulnerable communities.

As Deputy Executive Director at the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, Nicole contributed to the expansion of Supervised Release, a nationally acclaimed alternative to detention program. Her work included developing program policies, implementing court operations, and collaborating with key stakeholders to reduce reliance on detention while promoting community-based supervision. In addition, she oversaw city-funded diversion initiatives and helped design tools to enhance pretrial decision-making, ensuring fairness and accessibility within the criminal legal system.

Nicole's career reflects her dedication to empowering individuals impacted by systemic inequities. She has managed court operations for CASES within Manhattan Criminal Court, implementing short-term alternatives to incarceration and diversion programs, and spearheaded the Misdemeanor Arraignment Project for the Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn. In these roles, she integrated social work practices into criminal defense strategies, linking individuals to essential services while reducing recidivism. Her impact extends to education and healthcare, where she has supported children, families, and communities through crisis intervention, counseling, and system navigation within New York City schools and hospitals. Later in her career, Nicole was recruited as the Clinical Director of a private therapy practice to provide clinical supervision and operational oversight for over 35 therapists and played a key role in executing several business strategies within a private therapy practice that resulted in 200% growth in profit and people served in less than a year.

In 2024, Nicole founded **Arriving Full Circle**, a virtual therapy and coaching practice serving women and families. Through tailored mental health support, she addresses challenges such as depression, anxiety, trauma, and interpersonal conflict, empowering clients to uncover unconscious patterns, heal past wounds, and lead purposeful lives. She also conducts workshops on resilience, stress management, emotional intelligence, and overall wellness, furthering her mission to educate and promote healing.

Nicole earned her Bachelor's in Social Work from Long Island University and her Master's from New York University's Advanced Standing Program. Licensed to practice in New York, Connecticut, Florida, and Colorado, she is committed to equipping individuals with the tools to thrive in the face of adversity and create meaningful change within their communities.

Hon. Lourdes M. Ventura – JALBCA, Board of Directors (Judges' Division)

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The Honorable Lourdes M. Ventura is currently serving as an Associate Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department and formerly served on the historic all-woman bench in Appellate Term of the Supreme Court for the 2nd, 11th, and 13th Judicial Districts. She also presided over matters of the Supreme Court of the State of New York in the 11th Judicial District (Queens County) in the Civil Term and co-chaired the Queens Supreme Court Civil Term Equal Justice in the Courts Committee. In 2019, Justice Ventura served as a Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York in Queens County. Prior Justice Ventura's service on the bench, she was a partner at the law firm of Ahmuty, Demers & McManus and served as a former Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office, former prosecutor for the Queens District Attorney's Office, in the New York State Senate in various capacities, including Special Counsel to the New York State Senate Majority Conference, Counsel for Latino and Immigrant Affairs and Deputy Chief

of Staff overseeing the Policy and Finance departments. Justice Ventura is a graduate of the SUNY Buffalo Law School.

Justice Ventura also serves as a member of the New York Pattern Jury Instructions (Civil) Committee. Justice Ventura is currently serving as President of the Latino Judges Association and is a board member of the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert. She has served on a number of bar associations, was the first Latina to serve as an officer of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and was the first Latina to serve as President of the venerable Queens County Women's Bar Association. Justice Ventura is also past President of the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County.

Justice Ventura has been the recipient of numerous local, and state, awards and citations for exemplary community service and outstanding citizenship. On May 15, 2003, Congressman Charles Rangel read Justice Ventura's achievements into the Congressional Record and on March 6, 2020, Justice Ventura was the recipient of a Medal of Merit bestowed by the President of the Dominican Republic in celebration of International Women's Day. In 2022, Justice Ventura was recognized as a Mujer Destacada by El Diario newspaper.

Justice Ventura is a graduate of the SUNY Buffalo Law School and is an emeritus member of the Dean's Advisory Council. She is admitted to the state bar in both New York and the District of Columbia. She is also admitted to the federal bar in the Southern, Eastern, and Western districts of New York State and is admitted to the United States Supreme Court.

Justice Ventura looks forward to continuing her service to the bench, bar, and community.