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Dear Member of the Bar:

Established in 1991, The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission (Commission) is charged with the responsibility for developing programs to improve both the perception and disposition of justice within the New York State court system. As part of this responsibility and in an effort to increase diversity in the judiciary, the Commission created a Judicial Mentor Program which pairs sitting judges with attorneys interested in appointed or elected judicial positions. We invite attorneys who are interested in being paired with a judicial mentor to submit a judicial mentor request form.

The Judicial Mentor Program is meant to provide guidance, support, and encouragement to attorneys interested in becoming judges. Attorneys who have submitted a mentor request form to the Commission will be paired with a Judicial Mentor. The Commission then endeavors to pair the attorney with a judge who has undergone the same process, appointed or elected, and who presides in the court to which the attorney aspires.

The time commitment for the mentorship program is open-ended allowing the judicial mentors and their mentees to establish a flexible relationship. Judicial mentors have proven to be an invaluable resource to attorneys seeking judicial positions and can provide important feedback and assistance to their mentees.

To request a mentor, please complete the annexed Judicial Mentor Request Form. For additional information, please contact Mary Lynn Nicolas-Brewster, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission Executive Director at [FHWilliams@nycourts.gov](mailto:FHWilliams@nycourts.gov) or at 212-428-2790. To learn more about the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, please visit our website at: <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/ip/ethnic-fairness/index.shtml>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Troutman".

Hon. Shirley Troutman  
Co-Chair, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy K. Webber".

Hon. Troy K. Webber  
Co-Chair, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joanne D. Quiñones".

Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones  
Chair, Judicial Mentor Program