



OVERVIEW OF LATINOS/HISPANICS IN THE NEW YORK STATE COURT SYSTEM

I. LATINO/HISPANIC REPRESENTATION IN THE JUDICIARY

The current ethnic breakdown of the 1275 members of the NYS Judiciary is as follows:

- Native American – 1, or **.1%**;
- Asian – 34, or **2.7%**;
- Latino – 95, or **7.45%** statewide;
- African American – 173, or **13.4%**;
- members self-identifying as 2 or more races -2, or **.2%**; and
- White (or unspecified) – 975, or **76.4%**.
- Note: 46 judges will be lost as of December 31, 2020 due to budget cuts and the inability to re-certificate those judges for two years of additional service.

These statistics were confirmed by OCA, following our letter to Judge Larry Marks on Nov. 4, 2019 (prior to my November 13, 2019 public hearing testimony) officially requesting 10 years of statistics on judicial diversity across the state. Judge Larry Marks in response generated and provided the 10 years of statistics which OCA then shared and made publicly available to all in early March 2020. Those statistics are annexed to the Judicial Friends Report.

The statistics clearly establish that Latino Judges have fared better through the elected process than the appointive one. Currently, based on our information from the most recent election, there are approximately 70 elected, versus the 32 appointed Latino judges in our court system.

By way of illustration, our representation when dissected court by court is shockingly inadequate:

Of the 50 **Appellate Division Justices** (not certificated) - 7 are Latinos:

Of the 11 *certificated* **Appellate Division Justices** - none are Latino.

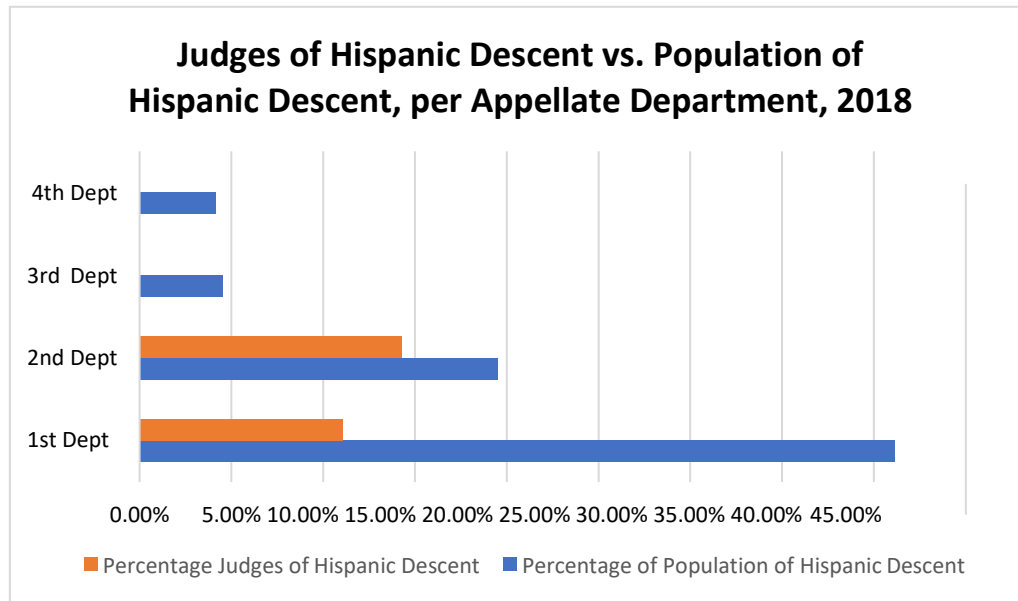
First Dept. (18): Hon. Rolando Acosta (NYC), Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels (BX),
Hon. Lizbeth Gonzalez (BX), Hon. Manuel Mendez (NYC)

Second Dept. (21): Hon. Reinaldo Rivera (Kings), Hon. Betsy Barros (Kings),
Hon. Hector D. LaSalle (Suffolk)

Third & Fourth Dept: HAVE NO LATINO JUDGES and only one African American in each

Third Dept. (10) - Hon. Sharon Aarons (Bronx Judge)

Fourth Dept. (12)- Hon. Shirley Troutman



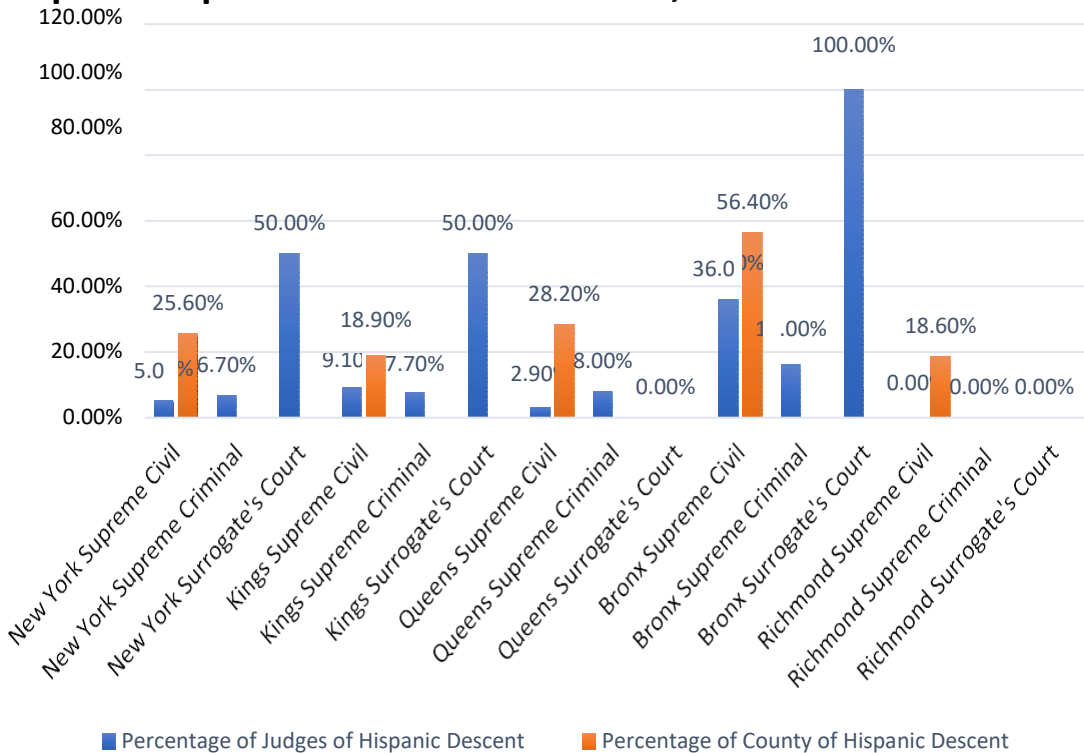
- Ironically, it is the highest court of our state, the Court of Appeals which has the highest percentage of Latino representation with 2 of the 7 Justices, or 28.57%:
 - Hon. Jenny Rivera &
 - Hon. Michael Garcia

- Of the 84 **Court of Claims Judges**, 7 are Latinos

Hon. Fernando Camacho (Suffolk)
Hon. Gregory Carro (NYC)
Hon. Juan Merchan (NYC)
Hon. Walter Rivera (White Plains)
Hon. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick (NYC)
Hon. Carmen St. George (Suffolk)
Hon. Faviola Soto (NYC - retiring)

- Of the 143 Supreme Court Justices (outside NYC), 2 are Latinos
 Hon. Maria Vasquez-Doles – Orange County
 Hon. Helen Voustinas - Nassau County

Hispanic Representation on the Bench, NYC 2019



- Of the 134 Supreme Court Justices (in NYC), 23 are Latinos.

Bronx: (13)

Hon. Maryann Brigantti	Hon. Julia Rodriguez	Hon. Lucindo Suarez
Hon. Joseph Capella	Hon. Julio Rodriguez	Hon. Fernando Tapia
Hon. Ruben Franco	Hon. Llinet Rosado	(ret. 2020)
Hon. Doris Gonzalez	<i>Hon. Norma Ruiz</i>	Hon. Robert Torres
Hon. Wilma Guzman	(ret. 2020)	Hon. George Villegas

Brooklyn: (4)

Hon. Dawn Jimenez-Salta	Hon. Francois Rivera
Hon. Evelyn J. Laporte	Hon. Richard Velasquez

New York: (1)

Hon. Mary Rosado

Queens: (5)

Hon. Diccia Pineda-Kirwan (assigned to Nassau)

Hon. Leslie Purificacion

Hon. Lourdes Ventura

Hon. Carmen Velasquez

Hon. Joseph Zayas

Staten Island: (0) No Latinos elected.

Supreme Court - Outside of NYC: (2)

Hon. Maria Vasquez-Doles, Orange County

Hon. Helen Voutsinas, Nassau County

- Of the 24 **Surrogate Court Judges** outside NYC), all are white.
- Of the 7 **Surrogate Court Judges in NYC**: 3 are Latino,
 - Bronx – Hon. Nelida Malave-Gonzalez
 - Brooklyn – Hon. Margarita Torres-Lopez
 - NYC – Hon. Rita Mella
- Of the 119 **County Court Judges**, 1 is Latino,
Hon. Philip Goglas (Suffolk)
- Of the 26 **District Court Judges in Nassau**, none are Latino
- Of the 23 **District Court Judges in Suffolk**, none are Latino
- Of the 92 **Family Court Judges outside NYC**, 3 are Latino
 - Hon. Nilda Morales-Horowitz, Westchester County;
 - Hon. Linda Mejias, Nassau County;
 - Hon. Richard Rivera, Albany County;
- Of the 137 **Acting Supreme Court Justices** designated by OCA in the 1st, 2nd, 11th, 12th and 13th Judicial Districts – 16 are Latino
 - 1st J.D. – Hon. Gregory Carro, Hon. Jessica Bourbon and Hon. Jeanette Ruiz
(who is counted in each district, we will list her only once)
 - 2nd J.D. – Hon. Frederick Arriaga, Hon. Lizette Colon, Hon. Joanne Quinones,
Hon. Raymond Rodriguez and Hon. Jacqueline Williams
 - 11th J.D. – Hon. Connie Gonzalez, Hon. Gene Lopez, Hon. Michelle Johnson and
Hon. Suzanne Melendez
 - 12th J.D. – Hon. Efrain Alvarado, Hon. Patsy Gouldborne, Hon. Leticia Ramirez and
Hon. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morricks.

Note: Cannot ascertain from the website how many total ASCJ have been designated statewide

- Of the **56 Family Court Judges (in NYC) - 11** are Latino

Hon. Maria Arias (NYC)	Hon. Leticia Ramirez (AJFC- elected NY Civil)
Hon. Jessica Bourbon (NYC-elected Civil, Bx)	Hon. Fiordaliza Rodriguez (Bx)
Hon. Alicea Elloras (Bklyn)	Hon. Javier Vargas (Bklyn)
Hon. Alma Gomez (Bx)	Hon. Jeanette Ruiz (Admin Judge
Hon. Connie Gonzalez (Queens)	of NYC Family Court)
Hon. Mildred Negron (Queens)	Hon. Jacqueline Williams (Bklyn, elected Civil Ct.
	*bi-racial/ Panamanian)
- One **Matrimonial Judge** (*unable to determine how many in the system)
Hon. Patsy Gouldborne
- Of the **119 NYC Civil Court Judges - 13** are Latino

Hon. John Howard Alegrin (NYC)	*Candidates for 2020:
Hon. Karina Alomar (*candidate for Supreme Queens)	Wanda Negron (Bronx)
Hon. Lizette Colon (*candidate for Supreme Kings)	& Nestor Diaz (Queens)
Hon. Patria Frias-Colon (Kings)	
Hon. Denise Dominquez (NYC)	
Hon. Fidel Gomez (Bx)	
Hon. Consuelo Malafre-Melendez (Kings)	
Hon. Emily Morales-Minerva (Bx)	
Hon. Jose Padilla (NYC)	
Hon. Bianka Perez (*candidate for Bronx Supreme)	
Hon. Brenda Rivera	
Hon. Myrna Socorro (Bronx)	
Hon. Marissa Soto (Bx)	
- Of the **106 NYC Criminal Court Judges - 16** are Latino

Hon. Angela Badamo (NY)	Hon. Marisol Martinez-Alonzo (NY)
Hon. Efrain Alvarado (ASCJ-Bx)	Hon. Edwin Novillo (Queens)
Hon. Frederick Arriaga (ASCJ-Kings)	Hon. Connie Morales (elected Civil Bronx)
Hon. Mary Bejarano (Queens)	Hon. Edwin Novillo (Kings)
Hon. Keshia Espinal (NY)	Hon. Christopher Robles (Kings)
Hon. Wanda Licitra (Bx)	Hon. Raymond Rodriguez (ASCJ-Kings)
Hon. Gene Lopez (ASCJ- Queens)	Hon. Michelle Johnson (identifies as bi-racial, Supv.
Hon. Joanne Quinones (ASCJ-Kings)	Judge of Queens Criminal Court and nominated for
Hon. Lumarie Maldonado-Cruz	Supreme 2020).
(NYC, elected Civil Queens),	
- Of the **50 Housing Court Judges - 4** are Latinos

Hon. Sergio Jimenez (Queens)	Hon. Enedina Pilar Sanchez (Queens)
Hon. Frances Ortiz (NYC)	Hon. Bryant Tovar (Bronx)

- Of the **167 City Court Judges** - **5** are Latinos

Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres (Buffalo),
Hon. Elena Goldberg-Velasquez (Yonkers),
Hon. Thomas Quinones (Yonkers),
Hon. Michael Carlos Lopez (Rochester) &

Hon. Lissette Fernandez (Peekskill) (Part time)

Two ***Town Judges*** –

Hon. Maritza Fugaro-Morton (Cortland) &

Hon. Ivonne S. Santos (Haverstraw)

Five ***Village Court Judges*** –

Hon. Joaquin F. Alemany (Scarsdale);

Hon. Jose O. Casteneda (Port Chester);

Hon. Roselina Serrano (West Haverstraw);

Hon. Joseph E. Suarez (Chestnut Ridge); and

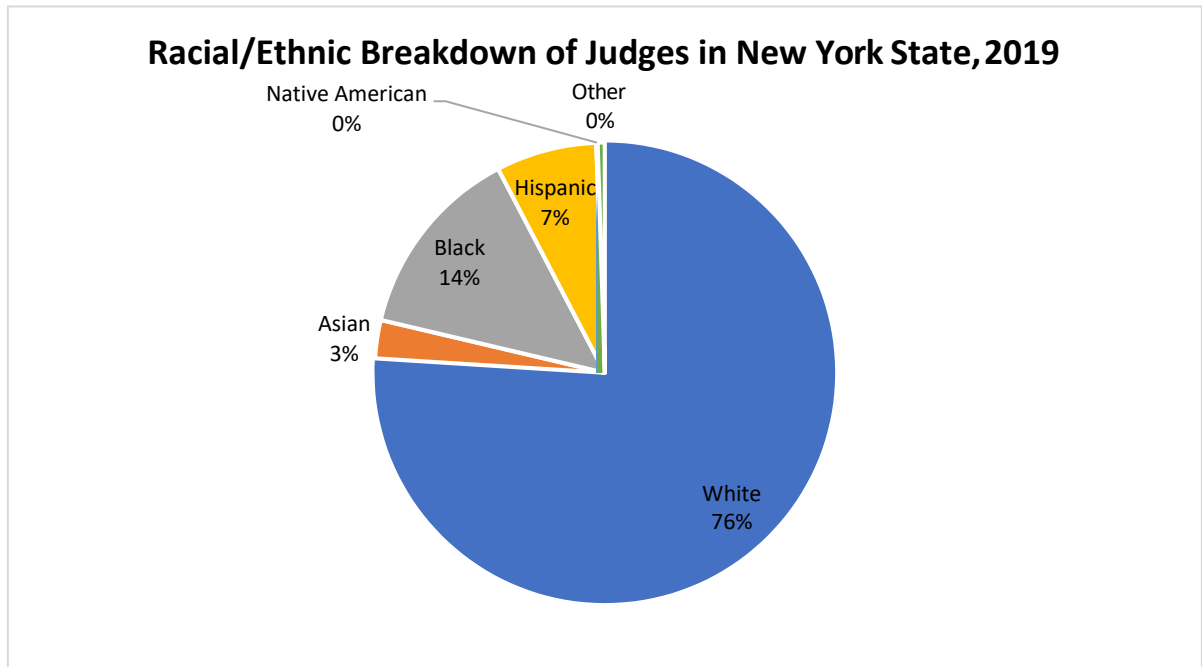
Hon. Andres Valdespino (Sleepy Hollow Village Court).

Note: Unable to ascertain total number of Town & Village Court Judges throughout the state.

*Exact number of judges per court is fluid in view of intermittent reassignments. Above totals are derived from OCA stats and available information on the official NYS website.

II. LATINO/HISPANIC REPRESENTATION IN CORRELATION TO NYS POPULATION

However, this is not the end of the analysis. In order to fully assess this data, one must consider their import as it correlates to the overall ethnic demographic make-up of New York State. An examination of that data demonstrates that Latino representation in the judiciary has stagnated for the last decade and has not kept up with our rise in population.



- According to the *American Community Survey*, a demographics survey program conducted by the **U.S. Census Bureau**, the population data for New York State in 2019 was broken down as follows (Note: all population data is sourced from this site: http://data.censusgov/cedsci/map?t=Hispanic%20or%20atino&tid=ACSDP1Y2019.DPO5&hidePreview=false&vintage=2019&layer=VT_2019_040_00_PP_D1&cid=DP05_0001E&mode=thematic

Population by Race	vs.	NYS Judicial Diversity	% Differential
White	63.20%	76.30%	+ 13.1
Asian	8.60%	2.70%	- 5.9
Black	15.90%	13.70%	- 2.2
Native-American	.40%	0.10%	- .30
Other	11.90%	0.50%	- 11.40
Latino/Hispanic	19.30%	7.10%	- 12.20

As the data demonstrates all ethnic minorities are underrepresented as compared to the state population, Latinos have the greatest disparity. Although we represent over 19.48% of the NYS population we are only 8% of the judiciary.

- A review of these stats in New York City reveals consistent patterns.
 - Latinos/Hispanics constitute 29.54% of the city-wide population, but represent only 19.48% of the judiciary in the NYC region, a deficit of 11.48%.
 - Some counties, like Kings and the Bronx, more closely represent their communities, whereas counties like New York, Queens and Richmond lag significantly behind in reflecting the communities they serve.
- % of Latino

New York County = **25.60%** BUT constitute - **5%** of Sup. Civil & **6.7%** of Sup. Criminal

Kings County = **18.90%** BUT constitute – **9.10%** - Sup. Civil & **7.70%** of Sup. Criminal

Queens County = **28.20%** BUT constitute – **2.90%** - Sup. Civil & **8.00%** of Sup. Criminal

Bronx County = **56.40%** BUT constitute – **36.00%** - Bronx Sup. Civil & **16.00%** of Criminal

Richmond County= **18.60%** BUT constitute - **0%** in all courts.

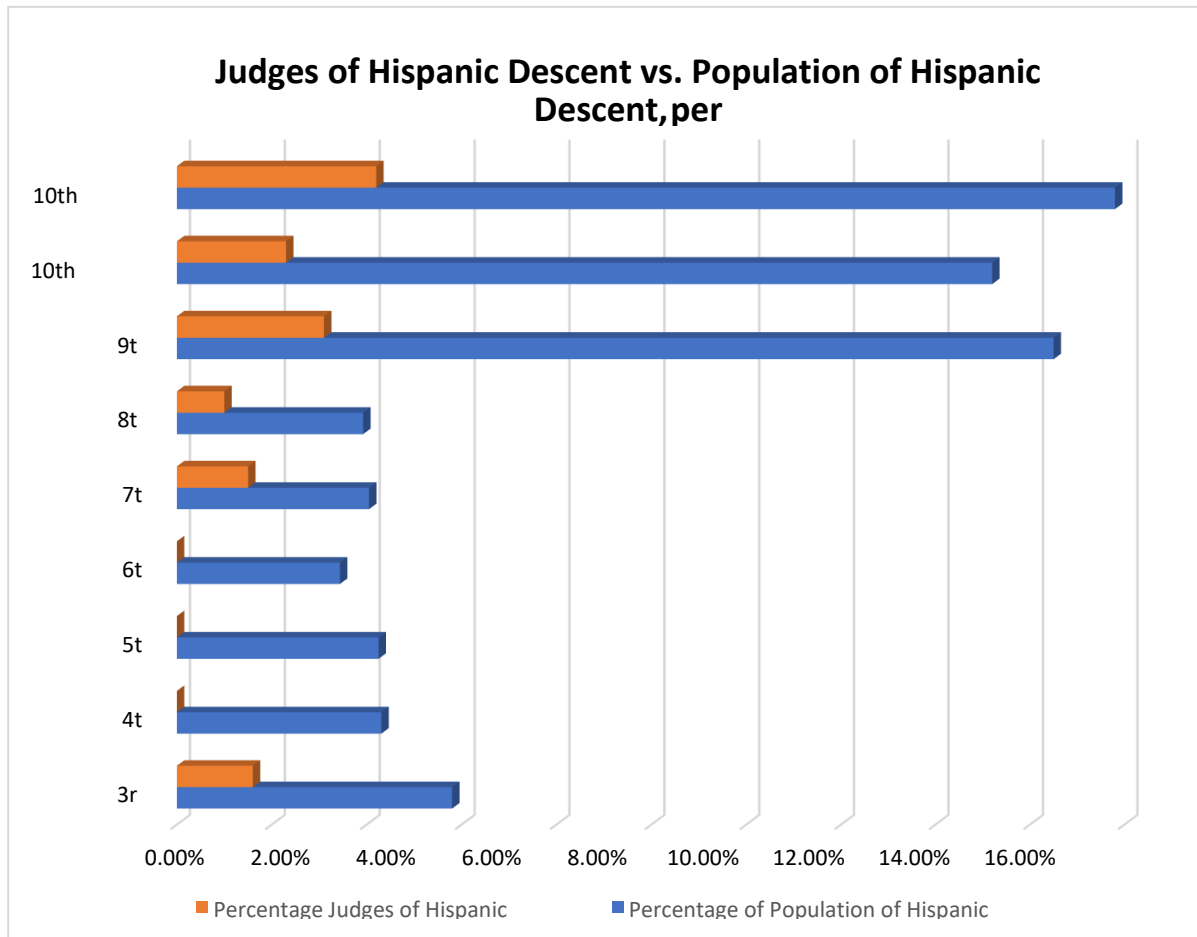
REPRESENTATION OUTSIDE OF NYC

Simply stated, the statistics for Hispanic/Latino representation outside of NYC is abysmal.

Attempts were made to acquire the statistics for 2019. Unfortunately, there is no 2019 quantitative data on judicial demographics available by county, outside of NYC and Long Island, because 24 of the 57 counties did not provide information for their area.

Review therefore is based on the data reported for 2018.

- Of the 57 counties in NYS, excluding the 5 counties of NYC, 10 have Hispanic/Latino populations exceeding 10%.
- Those counties include: Dutchess at 12.50%, Montgomery at 13.70%, Nassau at 17.20%, Orange at 21.00%, Putnam at 15.80%, Rockland at 18.10%, Suffolk at 19.80%, Sullivan at 16.60%, Ulster at 10.50%, Westchester at 25.10%.
- Despite the presence of Hispanics throughout the upstate regions of our state, our representation is almost non-existent, currently we constitute only 1.9% of judges in the northern regions of the state.



A breakdown by Judicial District is illustrative:

Judicial District	% of population of Hispanic Descent	% of Judges of Hispanic Descent
1 st (New York)	25.90%	7.80%
2 nd (Kings)	19.10%	7.50%
3 rd (Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster)	5.80%	1.60%
4 (Clinton, Essex, Franklin Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery Saratoga, Schenectady, St. Lawrence, Warren & Washington)	4.31%	0%

Judicial District	% of population of Hispanic Descent	% of Judges of Hispanic Descent
5 th (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga & Oswego)	4.25%	0%
6 th (Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Ostego, Schuyler, Tioga & Tompkins)	3.44%	0%
7 th (Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne & Yates)	4.05%	1.50%
8 th (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautaugua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans & Wyoming)	3.93%	1.00%
9 th (Dutchess, Orange Putnam, Rockland and Westchester)	18.50%	3.10%
10 th (Nassau)	17.20%	2.30%
10 th (Suffolk)	19.80%	4.20%
11 th (Queens)	28.10%	6.35%
12 th (Bronx)	56.40%	27.65%
13 th (Richmond)	18.70%	0%

III. OCA Executive Officers, Administrative & Supervising Judges

- Amongst OCA Executive Officers, Administrative & Supervising Judges the lack of representation is likewise evident:
 - There are zero *Executive Officers* of Hispanic/Latino descent.

- Of the 14 *NYC Administrative Judges* – 4 are Latino
Hon. Joseph Zayas – Queens Supreme, Criminal;
Hon. Doris Gonzalez – Bronx Supreme, Civil;
Hon. Julio Rodriguez – Bronx Supreme, Criminal;
Hon. Jeanette Ruiz – NYC Family Court
- Of the 20 *Supervising Judges in NYC* – 2 are Latina
Hon. Myrna Socorro – Bronx Civil Court &
Hon. Michelle Johnson – Queens Criminal Court
- Of the 10 Administrative Judges outside NYC – Zero are Hispanic/Latino
- Of the 21 Supervising Judges outside NYC – Zero are Hispanic/Latino
- Of the four Presiding Justices of the Appellate Divisions of NYS, the Hon. Rolando Acosta of the First Dept. is Latino and the only person of color.

IV. OCA Committee & Task Force Appointments

While there have been recent additions, Latino/Hispanic representation on these various Committees and Task Forces, is similarly underrepresented.

- ***Equal Justice in the Courts – Independent Review of Court System, Policies, Practices and Initiatives*** (led by Secretary Jeh Johnson. Evaluation will include judicial officials, the co-chairs of the Franklin H. Williams Commission - Hon. Troy Webber & Hon. Shirley Troutman, and others not publicly named, Latinos unknown)

The following list as it appears on the NYS Courts website page, within the menu for Court Administration:

- ***OCA's Permanent Commission on Access to Justice*** (36 Members and Ex Officio Members, 2 Latinos) (Hon. Rolando Acosta & Hon. Carmen Beauchamp-Ciparick, [retired])
- ***Disability Access Committee*** (27 Members, No Latinos)
- ***Advisory Council on Immigration Issues in Family Court*** (21 Members, 3 Latinos – *none of which are Latino judges*)
- ***NYS Commission on the Future of Indigent Defense Services*** - (29 Members, 3 Latinos) (*Hon. Joe Zayas, Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels & Hon. Charles Tejada [now deceased]*)
*This committee is no longer active, final report issued 2006
- ***NYS Permanent Commission on Justice for Children*** (23 Members, 2 Latinos) (*Jeanette Ruiz & parent member Jeannette Vega*)

- **New York State Justice Task Force** (25 Members and Ex Officio Members, 2 Latino – Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick (retired) & recent addition Hon. Hector D. LaSalle)
- **LGBTQ Commission, The Richard C. Failla** (23 members, No Latinos)
- **Matrimonial Practice Advisory and Rules Committee** (32 Members, 1 Latino)
- **Commission on Parental Legal Representation** (20 members, 2 Latino)
- **Partners in Justice Colloquium** (49 judicial members, 3 are Latino; 47 practitioner members, 4 are Latino and of 41 Law Professors, 1 is Latino)
- **Task Force on the Future of Probation in NYS** (23 Members, 1 Latino – Hon. Gregory Carro)
- **Professionalism in the Law** (22 members, 2 Latino – Hon Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick (retired) & Hon. Jenny Rivera)
- **Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness** - (23 active Members, 6 Latino) (Hon. Joanne Quinones, Hon. Richard Rivera, Hon. Robert Torres, Sandra Rivera, Esq. & recent additions – Hon. Llinet Rosado and Hon. Michael Lopez)
- **NYS Permanent Commission on Sentencing** (23 Members and Ex Officio, 1 Latino) (Hon. Efrain Alvarado)
- **Women in the Courts** (24 members, 0 Latinos)

The following is a list of additional OCA Committee's which do not appear on the above website page.

- **Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics** (37 Members and Faculty Members, 1 Latino)
- **Advisory Committee on Local Courts** (16 Members, No Latinos)
- **Advisory Committee on Civil Practice** (42 Members, No Latinos)
- **Advisory Committee on Criminal Law and Procedure** (22 Members, 2 Latinos)
- **Surrogate's Court Advisory Committee** (21 Members, 1 Latino)
- **NY UCS CJI and MC Committee** (41 Members and Former Members, 1 Latino)
- **NY Evidence Committee** (17 Members, 1 Latino)
- **Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee** (30 Members, 2 Latinos)
- **Family Violence Task Force** (19 Members, No Latinos)
- **Commission to Develop Comprehensive Vision for the Court System of the Future** (24 members, 2 Latinos – Hon. Ariel Belen (retired) & Roger Maldonado)

**Note: Above data was obtained from the NYS Courts official website as of October 2020.

V. Judicial Court Assignments –

Hispanic/Latino Judges do not have equal access to specialized court assignment opportunities. Throughout the court system there are specialized parts (i.e. Commercial Division, Medical Malpractice Parts, Major Crimes & Homicide Parts, to name a few). These coveted assignments are by and large not occupied by Judges of color. Nor are we typically assigned the “high profile” and “complex” trials.

VI. Future objectives

The Latino/Hispanic community wants and deserves a seat at the table in reviewing, assessing and developing the solutions that can improve the NYS court system. Our collective voices are necessary to solve the shortcomings of our system and to improve its efficiency.

Suggestions/Strategies for greater diversity:

- **Obtain permanent representation on these Commissions and Task Forces** by representatives chosen by their respective minority bar & judicial associations, as well as other indigent representation stakeholders.
- Conduct a ***Diversity Impact Study*** on the ***Proposed Court Consolidation plan***. An assessment of the proposed plan's impact on diversity is essential to ameliorate any unintended negative consequences of its implementation on the diversity of the court system.
- Create a ***Commission to examine how to amend, alter or re-invent the upstate judicial selection process*** in order to achieve greater diversity. Population composition across the region does not afford members of the Latino community and other underrepresented minority groups equal access to ascend to the bench.
- Creation of an *Inspector General for Diversity and Bias related conduct*.
- ***Mandatory, system-wide Racial Bias Training***
 - *Explicit Bias & Sensitivity training* –specifically focusing on issues relating to racial, ethnic & sexual identity
 - *Implicit Bias Training* – educating our work force of the phenomenon of unconscious bias. Gradually leading to the implementation of active workshops, with the goal of fostering open and honest dialogue.
- ***Public Hearings*** should be held throughout the state to ensure that communities of color are included, especially in the 10 counties outside of NYC with populations of Latinos in excess of 10%.
- *Increase the diversity of members on the Judicial Screening Panels* of bar associations throughout the state.

Equal justice requires equal representation, hence we seek a transformation in the racial, ethnic and cultural diversity of all facets of the New York State Court System.

THE LATINO JUDGES ASSOCIATION

HON. SALLIE MANZANET-DANIELS

PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 2020