BIOS

Hon. Debra J. Young
Statewide Coordinating Judge for Problem Solving Courts

Hon. Debra J. Young currently serves as the Statewide Coordinating Judge for Problem Solving Courts, a role she has held since February 2025. In this position, she oversees specialized courts and Alternatives to Incarceration programs throughout New York, providing strategic direction, developing best-practice models, coordinating statewide judicial training, and fostering collaboration among judges, court staff, and stakeholders. Her work emphasizes improving court operations, monitoring data trends, supporting judicial well-being, and ensuring that specialty courts align with evolving statutory and treatment standards.

Judge Young is an elected Rensselaer County Court Judge, first assuming office in 2013, reelected in 2023, and presiding over felony criminal trials, pleas, sentencings, local court appeals, tax foreclosures, and the Rensselaer County Recovery Court. Under her leadership, the Recovery Court secured $800,000 in grant funding to enhance services and expand its impact. She also serves as an Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court in the Third Judicial District, handling civil litigation and Article 78 proceedings. In addition, Judge Young has also served as Acting Albany Surrogate's Court Judge.

From 2014 to 2024, Judge Young was the Supervising Judge for the Criminal Courts of the Third Judicial District, where she supported judges across multiple counties, ensured compliance with case-processing goals, addressed emergent issues, and played a critical role in reducing pandemic-related backlogs. She continued her specialty-court leadership as the Coordinating Judge of the Specialty Courts in the Third Judicial District for several years. Judge Young has also held leadership roles in professional organizations including serving as President of the New York Association of Treatment Court Professionals (2021–2023) and President of the New York State County Court

Judges Association (2018–2019). She continues to serve on the board of the New York State Association of Treatment Court Professionals.
Prior to joining the bench, Judge Young practiced law for 15 years at Thuillez, Ford, Gold, Butler & Young, LLP, becoming a partner in 2005. Judge Young holds a Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Albany Law School and her Bachelor of Science in Biology, cum laude, from Loyola College in Maryland.
Judge Young lives in Castleton-on-Hudson, New York, where she is an active member of her community and serves as a lector at Sacred Heart Church.

HON. CAREN LOGUERCIO
Supervising Judge, Suffolk County Family Court

Judge Loguercio is the Supervising Judge of the Suffolk County Family Court and began serving on the bench of the Suffolk County Family Court in January 2011. Judge Loguercio handles child protective proceedings, Family Treatment Court, custody and visitation, family offense and adoption cases. Judge Loguercio is the Chair of the Attorney for the Children Advisory Committee of Suffolk County and member of the Mental Health Professionals Screening Committee for the Second Department. Judge Loguercio was appointed as an Acting Supreme Court Justice in January of 2015. Judge Loguercio was also appointed to the statewide Family Treatment Court strategic planning committee and as Suffolk County lead judge to the Child Welfare Court Improvement Project.

Judge Loguercio is a member of the Suffolk County Bar Association and was elected to the Board of Directors in June of 2018 and is currently an Officer, Associate Dean and co-chair of the curriculum committee of the Suffolk Academy of Law. Judge Loguercio is the former co-chair of both the Family Court Committee and Professional Ethics and Civility Committee, a member of the Bench Bar Committee, the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association and the Suffolk County Matrimonial Bar Association where she served as a member of the Board of Directors from 2012 to 2016 and President (2013-

2014). Judge Loguercio has lectured for the New York State Judicial Institute, New York State Bar Association, Suffolk County Bar Association Academy of Law, Suffolk County Women's Bar Association, Suffolk County 18-b panel and for Touro Law School and has served as editor for the Suffolk Lawyer Family Law Section.

Prior to being elected, Judge Loguercio was the Principal Law Clerk to Supreme Court Justice Emily Pines and served as an Assistant Town Attorney for the Town of Brookhaven. Judge Loguercio graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a Juris Doctorate, with honors.

In June of 2023, the Suffolk County Advisory Board on Child Protection and the Task Force on Domestic Violence awarded Judge Loguercio the Judicial Professional of the Year Award. In 2017, Judge Loguercio was named Judge of the Year by the Suffolk County Court Officers Benevolent Association. In 2011, Judge Loguercio was named Public Citizen of the Year by the Suffolk County Chapter of the Association of Social Workers. In 2007, the Town of Brookhaven honored Judge Loguercio as Woman of the Year in Law.

Judge Loguercio previously served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to helping the lives of people afflicted with this brittle bone disease and Every Child's Dream, a not-for profit corporation which assists children and families living in homeless shelters on Long Island.

HON. ROBIN M. KENT
Judge of the Nassau County Family Court

Robin M. Kent is a jurist with eighteen years of service on the New York State Family Court bench in Nassau County. Throughout her judicial tenure, she has held long-standing leadership roles in child protective and treatment court

matters and is widely recognized for her expertise in abuse and neglect proceedings, custody and family offense matters, and multidisciplinary court initiatives. Her work has focused extensively on child welfare, judicial reform, court improvement projects, and policy development, particularly as they relate to neurodivergent populations and families involved in the court system.

Since January 2009, Judge Kent has served as a Judge of the Family Court of the State of New York in Nassau County, Mineola. She currently serves as the Presiding Judge of the Nassau County Family Treatment Court and emerging Family Wellness Court, where she addresses matters involving substance use, mental health, recovery, and family reunification. Since taking the bench, she has also served as the Lead Judge in child protective matters, presiding over complex abuse and neglect proceedings and overseeing related court operations.

Judge Kent maintains a high-volume docket that includes abuse and neglect proceedings, custody and visitation disputes, family offense matters, guardianships, adoptions, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases. She has led Child Welfare Court Improvement Projects aimed at implementing best practices and systemic reforms designed to improve outcomes for children and families appearing before the court. She has also worked extensively with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs to foster collaboration among agencies and stakeholders and to strengthen interorganizational communication in child welfare matters.

Known for her thoughtful and detailed approach to Family Court proceedings, Judge Kent issues comprehensive written decisions and orders focused on ensuring statutory compliance and safeguarding due process rights. She regularly collaborates with attorneys, social service agencies, treatment providers, and multidisciplinary professionals to promote child safety, permanency, and family stability.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Kent maintained a solo law practice through the Law Office of Robin M. Kent, P.C. in Jericho, New York, concentrating in family and education law. In that role, she represented clients in custody, support, and special education matters, including administrative hearings and Family Court proceedings. She also served as an Impartial Hearing Officer for the New York State Department of Education, conducting hearings under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and issuing binding decisions concerning special education services.

Earlier in her career, Judge Kent served as a Special Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Office of Legal Affairs at Queens County Family Court, prosecuting abuse and neglect cases on behalf of the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS). In that role, she conducted hearings, examined witnesses, and presented evidence in Family Court proceedings involving child protective matters.

Judge Kent has remained actively involved in statewide judicial and professional initiatives throughout her career. She has served as a Member of the Family Court Rules and Advisory Committee since 2012 and is Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Educational Planning for the New York State Neurodivergence Committee. She is also a member of the Judicial Engagement Network, the New York State Family Court Judges Association, and the Nassau County Bar Association, including its Family Law and Education Law Committees.

Judge Kent earned her Juris Doctor from St. John's University School of Law in 1990 and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from State University of New York at Binghamton in 1987.

NAMI Central Suffolk Long Island, NY

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Ellen Ritz, President of NAMI Central Suffolk Long Island NY

Ellen Ritz, President of NAMI Central Suffolk Long Island NY, has valued service to others throughout her life. Through NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, she teaches courses, chairs the FaithNet committee, runs support groups for people struggling with a mental health disorder as well as for their families. Ellen is a frequent presenter to students and staff at public schools, universities and medical schools, as well as to law enforcement, corporate groups, faith groups and to the general public. Ellen advocates with legislators regarding improving mental health services. She is also Vice President of NAMI NYS and serves on NYS' Executive Committee, Program, Bylaws and P&P, Personnel and Education committees.

Ellen is a Registered Nurse with extensive experience in hospitals and schools. She is experienced in trauma units and is a long-time health educator. Ellen graduated from Columbia University and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the Nursing Honor Society. She was a long-time member of the East Williston School District Board of Education and served as its President. She has been honored as a Woman of Distinction by the NY State Assembly and named to the Women's Roll of Honor by the Town of North Hempstead. Ellen believes in making a difference.