

*The 7th Judicial District's
Clergy Day Committee Presents*


Welcome

May 12, 2026
Church of Love Faith Center
700 Exchange Street
Rochester, New York 14608

**Bench
& Pulpit**

A Clergy Conversation
with the Courts

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7th Judicial District by the Numbers

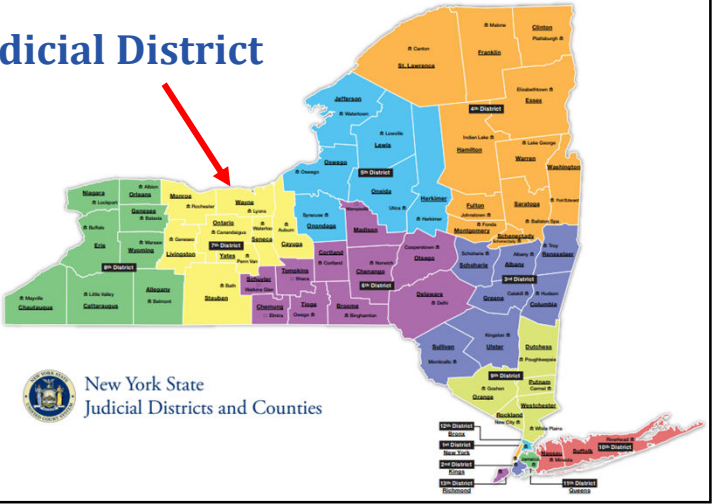
Hon. William K. Taylor
*Administrative Judge for the 7th Judicial District
New York State Supreme Court Justice*

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7th Judicial District

- Cayuga
- Livingston
- Ontario
- Monroe
- Seneca
- Steuben
- Wayne
- Yates



New York State
Judicial Districts and Counties

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7th Judicial District by the Numbers

The 7th Judicial District is included in the 4th Judicial Department of the Appellate Division

District Wide Data

- 8 Counties & 6 Cities
- 75 State Paid Judges
- 614 Non-Judicial Positions
- 263 Town & Village Judges
- 165 Town & Village Courts
- 15 Facilities Including Courthouses
- \$72 Million Budget

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Monroe County by the Numbers

Monroe County Data:

- 2 Courthouses
- 46 Judges
- 388 Non-Judicial Positions
- 101 Sheriff's Deputies
- 5 Sheriff's Deputies Assigned to the Appellate Division

JUDGES BY COURT TYPE

20 Supreme Court

2 Court of Claims

8 Family Court

6 Monroe County Court

10 Rochester City Court

1 Surrogate Court

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Overview of Court Types

Hon. Stephen Miller
*New York State Court of Claims
 Monroe County Hall of Justice*

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Overview Court Types
*From Town & Village Courts
to the Court of Appeals*

- New York has a Unified Court System
- Two Main Court Categories:
 - ✓ Trial Courts
 - ✓ Appellate Courts

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Town & Village Courts
(Justice Courts)

- **Local Town & Village Courts Handle:**
 - ✓ Traffic Violations
 - ✓ Misdemeanors
 - ✓ Small Claims
 - ✓ Landlord-Tenant Matters
- Often Non-Lawyer Judges

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City Courts

- **Located in Cities** – Auburn, Canandaigua, Corning, Geneva, Hornell & Rochester
- **City Courts Handle:**
 - ✓ Misdemeanors
 - ✓ Civil Cases
 - ✓ Small Claims
 - ✓ Landlord-Tenant Matters
 - ✓ CAP Court

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NYS Supreme Court

- Main Trial Court of General Jurisdiction
- Supreme Court Handles:
 - ✓ Felonies
 - ✓ Major Civil Cases
- Despite its Name, Not the Highest Court


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County Court

- Exists in Each County
- County Court Handles:
 - ✓ Felony Criminal cases
 - ✓ Civil Cases (Limited Jurisdiction)
- Acts with Supreme Court in Some Regions

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Family Court

- Handles Family-Related Matters:
 - ✓ Custody and Visitation
 - ✓ Child Support
 - ✓ Juvenile Delinquency
 - ✓ Abuse and Neglect

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Surrogate's Court

- Surrogate's Court Handles:
 - ✓ Probate of Wills
 - ✓ Administration of Estates
 - ✓ Guardianships

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Appellate Division

- Hears Appeals from Lower Courts:
 - ✓ NYS Civil & Criminal Courts
 - ✓ City & Justice Courts

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Appellate Division

- Intermediate Appellate Court
- Four Departments Across New York State
- Hears Appeals from Supreme and County Courts

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Court of Appeals

- Highest Court in New York State
- Located in Albany
- Reviews Legal Issues (Not Facts)
- Final Authority on New York Law

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Conclusion

- New York Court System is Complex but Structured:
- Local Courts → Trial Courts → Appellate Courts → Court of Appeals

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Jury Service

Donna Rainford Davis
*Deputy Commissioner of Jurors
Monroe County Jury Office*

Roxanne Henry
*Jury Outreach Coordinator
Monroe County Jury Office*


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Jury Diversity & Participation

- Over 16,000 Jurors Reported in 2025.
- The goal of jury outreach is to create representative juries with varied backgrounds (race, socioeconomic status, etc.) reflecting the "voice of the community."
- The key is increasing public trust by recognizing historical biases and boosting confidence in the legal system through a diverse jury.


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Monroe Jury Outreach

- Goal is to increase Jury Diversity & Participation
- Jury Outreach Program has us meeting the community where they are.
- Foodlink Curbside Market at the Hall of Justice on Mondays from 2:00 to 3:15 pm is an example of how we go beyond just jury.

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Jury Service Selection

How Are Jurors Selected?

- Jury Service is a legal obligation in New York State.
- People are Randomly Selected to receive a Qualification Questionnaire from Lists of Registered Voters, Driver's License/ID Holders, Income Tax Filers, Unemployment Recipients and **Volunteers**.

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Jury Service Payment

Are Jurors Paid?

- Yes!
- Jurors are paid \$72/Day depending upon their employer and other rules.

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Volunteer for Jury Service

Can You Volunteer for Jury Duty?

- Yes
- Fill Out Online Questionnaires
- Assures Justice for All
- Diversifies Jury Pool
- Civic Responsibility

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Volunteer for Jury Service

JUSTICE STARTS AT JURY.
JURY STARTS WITH YOU.



**VOLUNTEER FOR
JURY SERVICE**
WWW.NYJUROR.GOV



Justice starts at jury.
Jury starts with YOU.

Volunteer at www.nyjuror.gov

Justice starts at jury.
Jury starts with YOU.



Volunteer at www.nyjuror.gov


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Resources & Initiatives

Hon. Melissa Barrett
*Supervising Judge for 7th Judicial
 District City Courts*

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Warrant Resolution Office

Benefits - Why do it?

- Minimizes the risk of unexpected arrest
- Reduces the chance of potential job loss
- Reduces the accumulation of fines associated with outstanding warrants

**Monroe County Warrant Resolution Office is
 FREE &
 CONFIDENTIAL**

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Warrant Resolution Office

Since its Inception in 2025

500+
Outstanding
Warrants
Have Been Resolved

300+
Warrant Inquiries
Have Been
Addressed

585-371-3200
7JDWarrants@nycourts.gov




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Judicial Observation Project

- Collaboration between UCLM and 7th Judicial District
- Pilot program launched December 2020
- MISSION:
 - Address issues of implicit bias in New York State court system
 - Contribute to a more just and fair judiciary by providing judges with constructive feedback in a group setting
 - Help judges be better judges


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Judicial Observation Project

- Implicit Bias Training
 - 70 community volunteers have participated in over 700 hours of implicit bias training provided by Monroe County since JOP's inception.
 - 28 judges have volunteered
- Courtroom 101 session
- Courthouse tour
- Court session observations
 - Over 350 hours of volunteer observations
- 5 group feedback sessions
 - Unique opportunity for dialogue

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Judicial Observation Project

- Completely voluntary
- Institutional support
- Meaningful & transformative work
- Future opportunities for growth
- Outreach efforts for volunteers
- Charge to clergy



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Eviction Diversion Resource Center

What is it?

- Monroe County Department of Human Services (DHS) satellite office located **on-site** at the Hall of Justice where tenants can go to find out if they are eligible for assistance from DHS or other community organizations

STAKEHOLDERS

- Rochester Housing Court
- Monroe County Department of Human Services
- Tenants
- Legal Service Providers
- Landlords/Landlord Attorneys

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Eviction Diversion Resource Center

More Than Information: SERVICES



Financial Assistance for Housing



SNAP Benefits



Financial Literacy



Community Stakeholder Referral

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Community Connections Desk




- 1st Floor of the Monroe County Hall of Justice
- **On-site referral service** designed to connect individuals and families with the resources they may need
- Full-time Goodwill Community Navigator

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Help Center at the Hall of Justice



7th Judicial District Court

HELP CENTER

Walk-In Hours

OPEN 9 AM TO 1 PM

CLOSED 1 PM TO 2:30 PM

OPEN 2:30 PM TO 4 PM

Phone: 585-371-3284
Email: 7thCourtHelp@nycourts.gov

To Make Copies:
Patrick Printing
16 East Main Street
Rochester, New York
85-232-1500


For Notary Services:
Community Connections Desk
Monroe County Hall of Justice
First Floor

County Clerk's Office
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York
585-753-1600

- In 2025, **5,777** people were assisted at the Help Center
- First quarter of 2026, **1,491** people have been assisted
- Most asked questions:
 - Landlord-tenant related
 - How to start a civil action
 - Consumer credit cases

Help Center Provides Legal Information - Not Legal Advice

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Youth Engagement

Rashondra Martin, Esq.

*Monroe County Family Court
Support Magistrate*

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JUST LAW Program



You are cordially invited to
**JUST LAW
AWARD CEREMONY**

A celebration to recognize the 12 middle-school students who were selected as this year's essay contest winners!


Mayor Malik Evans
Administrative Judge Hon. William K. Taylor
and RCSD Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser
are scheduled to attend.

12:30 - 2:30 pm - Thursday, May 21, 2026
Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd.



- Essay contest for students in 6th - 9th grade
- Partnership with RCSD, City of Rochester, WDKX Radio Station and the Rochester Black Bar Association (RBBA)
- In 2025-2026 - **25 Judges** made presentations at RCSD schools
- 12 winners (from 110+ submitted essays) will read their essays aloud on **May 21, 2026** the Hall of Justice at an Award Ceremony
- Attendance and GPA component of contest

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Student Summer Paid Interns

- Paid summer internship program – available in all counties of the 7th Judicial District (\$20/hour)
- Summer of 2026 – **36 students total** (*Monroe, Cayuga, Livingston, Ontario, Stueben & Wayne Counties*)
- Promotes civic education and readiness, providing high school and college students hands-on experience within the court system
- Six-week program starting in July providing, career exploration, job shadowing, tours, mock trials
- Intern assigned to Judge and Judge’s Chambers

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Opportunities for Youth

- Affinity Month Partnerships
- Careers in the Courts
- Court Tours
- Mock Trials
- Unpaid Internships
- Paid Internships for Law Students
- Youth in Court – for Children in Care

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Questions & Answers

Thank You!