



Hon. Constance Baker Motley Luncheon

Honoring:

Hon. Tricia M. Ferrell
Supervising Judge of the
Nassau County District Court

Hon. Cheryl A. Joseph
Supervising Judge of the Matrimonial Parts
Suffolk County Supreme Court

Keynote Address

Hon. Shirley Troutman
Associate Justice, Court of Appeals

Sunday, March 8, 2026
Blackstone's Steakhouse
Melville, New York

Formal Program

Mistress of Ceremonies:

Hon. Maxine S. Broderick

Judge of the Nassau County District Court

Invocation:

Joy S. Bunch Wilkinson, Esq.

Vice-President Programming,
Amistad LI Black Bar Association

Presentation of Colors:

New York State Courts Honor Guard

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem and Black National Anthem:

Mrs. Charmise Woodside-Desire

Welcome:

Diane T. Clarke, Esq.

President, Amistad LI Black Bar Association

Acknowledgements:

Caelah Chavis, Esq

Presentation of Awards

Hon. Tricia M. Ferrell

Presented by Hon. Jerald S. Carter (Ret.)
Judge of the Nassau County Court

Hon. Cheryl A. Joseph

Presented by Hon. Geoffrey Prime
Judge of the Nassau County District Court

Scholarship Recipients

Ms. Pacika Guerra

Ms. Tamara Pierre

Presented by Carletta Sobers

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker

Hon. Andrea Phoenix

Judge of the Nassau County District Court

Keynote Address:

Hon. Shirley Troutman

Associate Judge, New York State Court of Appeals

Closing Remarks:

Cherice P. Vanderhall Wilson, Esq.

Co-Executive Dir., Amistad LI Black Bar Association

Hon. Cheryl A. Joseph

Justice Cheryl A. Joseph has distinguished herself as a respected jurist and administrative leader within the New York State Unified Court System. Appointed to the New York State Court of Claims on May 5, 2015, by then-Governor Andrew Cuomo, she became the first African American woman appointed to that Court since the 1987 appointment of the Honorable Juanita Bing Newton. Following her appointment, Justice Joseph presided over matrimonial matters, where she earned recognition for her fairness, diligence, and measured approach to complex family law cases. In August 2020, she was named Supervising Judge of the Matrimonial Parts in Suffolk County, becoming the first African American judge in the County's history to be elevated to an administrative judicial leadership position, overseeing court operations and guiding the administration of matrimonial proceedings

Justice Joseph's career reflects a longstanding commitment to family justice and public service. Her prior professional experience includes serving as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Touro Law Center in Central Islip, Support Magistrate in Family Court in both New York City and Suffolk County, Supervising Court Attorney in Queens Family Court, Domestic Violence Court Coordinator for the Center for Court Innovation, and Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy from New York University in 1993, and her Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law in 1996, where she received the Myron L. Greene Award for Oral Advocacy. Born in Brooklyn to parents who emigrated from Guyana and Trinidad, she was raised in Elmont, New York, and now resides in Suffolk County with her two sons.

Hon. Tricia M. Ferrell

Tricia M. Ferrell was appointed to the Nassau County District Court in March 2008 and elected later that year to a six-year term. She was re-elected in 2014 and 2020. Over the course of her judicial service, she has adjudicated criminal matters and presided over the Driving While Intoxicated Court and Domestic Violence Court. In January 2022, she was appointed Supervising Judge of the Nassau County District Court, where she has led significant operational improvements, including the creation of a public Resource Center, establishment of Felony Screening and Centralized Arraignment Parts, expansion of Opioid and Human Trafficking Courts, implementation of an electronic document delivery system, and the institution of procedures for virtual court appearances. Under her leadership, the court has also strengthened staffing in key operational areas and enhanced public access to justice through innovative programming and community partnerships.

Judge Ferrell earned her Juris Doctor from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where she was honored with the Alumni for Judicial Service Award in 2014, and graduated cum laude from the City College of New York. Prior to taking the bench, she served as Director of Compliance for Nassau County, Deputy Village Attorney for the Incorporated Village of Hempstead, and Assistant District Attorney in Nassau County, gaining broad experience in criminal prosecution and municipal law.

An active and respected member of the legal community, Judge Ferrell is affiliated with numerous professional organizations, including the Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, the Nassau County Women's Bar Association, and the Nassau County Bar Association, where she has held leadership roles and contributed to educational initiatives. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Theodore Roosevelt Inn of Court and is active in both the New York State and Nassau County District Court Judges Associations. Among her many honors are the Hon. Alfred S. Robbins Memorial Award and the Norman L. Lent Memorial Award, recognizing her outstanding judicial service and commitment to the bar.

Beyond the courtroom, Judge Ferrell is deeply committed to mentorship and community engagement. She has served as a youth mentor and regularly participates in community outreach initiatives. A dedicated member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, she actively supports community clothing and food drives, serves as Sabbath School Superintendent for the Lower Division – Children, and is an Elder In-Training. She also founded a local branch of the GEM (Girls of Eloquence and Morals) Program, designed to nurture and empower teenage girls ages thirteen through eighteen steering their spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual development.

Hon. Shirley Troutman



Shirley Troutman, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, was born in Fort Valley, Georgia. She was raised in Buffalo, New York, where she attended public schools. In 1982 she received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the State of New York at Buffalo. She received her law degree from Albany Law School in 1985 and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1986.

She began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Erie County, then served as an Assistant Attorney General and as an Assistant United States Attorney representing the State of New York and the United States in civil litigation. She has also served as an adjunct professor at the University at Buffalo School of Law.

In 1994, Judge Troutman was appointed by Mayor Anthony Masiello to serve as a judge for the Buffalo City Court, and she was elected to a full ten-year term the same year. In 2002 she was elected to the Erie County Court, where she served until her election to New York State Supreme Court in 2009. In 2016 she was designated by Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve on the Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

In November of 2021, Judge Troutman was nominated by Governor Kathy Hochul to serve on the New York State Court of Appeals. She currently is co-chair of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission and has served as National Association of Women Judges New York Chapter President, a member of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics, and member of the Ethics Commission of New York State Unified Court System. She has also been an active member of many bar associations.

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