

Ninth Judicial District Virtual Recognition Awards

In Honor of

Honorable James T. Rooney
Honorable Robert H. Freehill
Honorable Michael Martinelli
Honorable Anthony A. Carbone
Honorable Susan I. Kettner
Support Magistrate Gladys E. Braxton



December 11, 2020

1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Welcome Remarks

THE HONORABLE KATHIE E. DAVIDSON
Administrative Judge, Ninth Judicial District

Special Remarks

THE HONORABLE JANET DIFIORE
Chief Justice, NYS Court of Appeals

THE HONORABLE ALAN D. SCHEINKMAN
Presiding Justice, Appellate Division,
Second Judicial Department

Bar Associations Remarks

Hudson Valley Hispanic Bar Association
NYS Trial Lawyers
Orange County Bar Association
Westchester Black Bar Association
Westchester County Bar Association
Westchester Women's Bar Association

Presentation of Awards to Honorees

THE HONORABLE JAMES T. ROONEY
County Court Judge/Multi-hat, Putnam County

THE HONORABLE ROBERT H. FREEHILL
County Court Judge, Orange County

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL MARTINELLI
Yonkers City Court Chief Judge

THE HONORABLE ANTHONY A. CARBONE
New Rochelle City Court Judge

THE HONORABLE SUSAN I. KETTNER
New Rochelle City Court Judge

THE HONORABLE GLADYS E. BRAXTON
Support Magistrate, Orange County Family Court

Closing Remarks

The Honorable James T. Rooney



Hon. James T. Rooney has served for twenty years as Putnam County Judge in the multi-hat function for County, Family and Surrogate's Court. He was appointed Acting Justice of the Supreme Court in 2003, and has presided over the Integrated Domestic Violence Court, the Supreme Court Youth Part, and formerly the Family Treatment Court.

Judge Rooney earned his Bachelor's Degree, cum laude, from Manhattan College in 1972,

and was a Dean's List graduate of St. John's University School of Law in 1975.

He began his legal career with a three- and one-half year tenure as a staff attorney with the Putnam County Legal Aid Society where he was assigned to Family Court.

He joined the Putnam County District Attorney's Office in 1979 and was appointed Chief Assistant District Attorney the following year. Judge Rooney continued in this position with the District Attorney's Office until his judicial term commenced. Among a number of major felony prosecutions, he tried the first murder cases in Putnam County utilizing DNA evidence.

Judge Rooney is a long-time active member and past president of the Putnam County Bar Association. He said he was honored and privileged to take his oath and serve as judge in the same Courthouse where his grandfather was granted citizenship in 1884.

Judge Rooney credits the encouragement, love and support of his wife, Marcy, and his daughters, Katie and Julie, for his successful tenure in the Courts. He also thanks and acknowledges all of the staff in the Ninth Judicial District who assisted him every day, while always demonstrating the utmost professionalism and dedication.



The Honorable Robert H. Freehill



The Hon. Robert H. Freehill, presiding judge of the Orange County Judicial Diversion Court. Judge Freehill earned his Juris Doctor from Albany Law School. He practiced law until his election to the County Court bench in 2006.

Judge Freehill has dedicated himself to a life of public service. For the Town of Wallkill, he has served as Police Commissioner, Associate Attorney, and

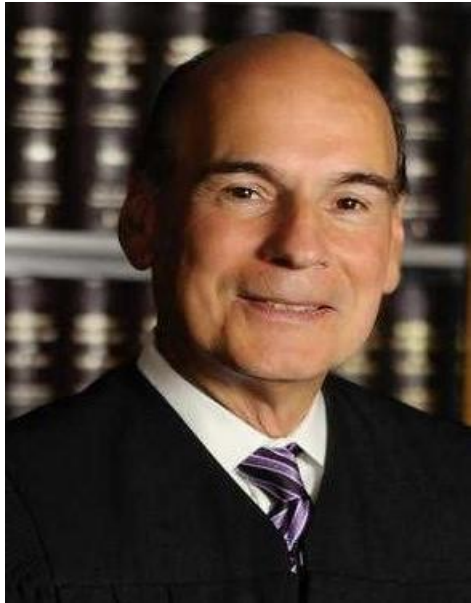
Town Justice, a position he held through six elections until he was elected Orange County Court Judge in 2006.

As County Court Judge, Freehill presides over felony criminal cases. In 2009, he was appointed Acting Supreme Court Justice. At that time, he was also named presiding justice for Orange County's first Judicial Diversion Court. Frequently referred to as Drug Treatment Court, the Judicial Diversion program is a collaborative effort between the Criminal Justice System and the Treatment System.

Judge Freehill resides in Howells, with his wife Marlene, four dogs and three cats. The Freehills are the parents of two children and have three grandchildren.



The Honorable Michael Martinelli



Yonkers City Court Chief Judge Michael Martinelli was born in Mount Vernon, NY, the eldest of six sons to former Yonkers Mayor Angelo and Carol Martinelli. He grew up in a nurturing Italian home where he was surrounded by grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, cousins and extended family.

After moving to Yonkers, the Judge graduated Our Lady of Victory School ('64), Mount St. Michael Academy ('68), the University of Notre Dame ('72

BA) and St. John's University School of Law ("75 JD). He is married to the former Jeanne Vergara for the past 46 years, and together they are the proud parents of daughter Jeanette (son-in-law Scott) and son Michael, Jr. (daughter-in-law Jeanna). They are the doting grandparents of Stefano, age 13, whose special needs have taken them to a new awareness of autism, Angelo, age 5, and Domenica, age 2.

Prior to taking the Yonkers City Court bench in 1996, he enjoyed a 20-year career as a litigator specializing in commercial, real estate, criminal and zoning law. This Court, one of the busiest in the state, is where he presided over countless criminal and civil trials, jury and non-jury, as well as the "problem solving" Drug Court and Human Trafficking Part, all in a firm, fair, expeditious and courteous manner. The Judge is especially proud of the help received by the numerous Drug Court participants under his tenure. In addition to judicial duties, since 2008, he has been the supervising, Chief Judge overseeing 6 other judges and a staff of over 50 clerks, stenographers and court attorneys. He also served as an Acting Westchester County Court Judge serving in the SCI part.

Judge Martinelli is involved with many professional and community organizations and is a member and past President of both the Yonkers Lawyers Association and Columbian Lawyers Association. He is the Vice President of the Community Planning Council of Yonkers and (formerly) a long time Little League coach in Yonkers. He is a parishioner of the Monastery Church of the Sacred Heart, Yonkers, NY, a member of John D. Calandra Lodge No. 2600, and a lifelong fan of the Yankees, all things Fighting Irish and good music.



The Honorable Anthony A. Carbone



Judge Carbone was born and raised in New Rochelle, New York, to Anthony A. Carbone and Anna M. Lalli Carbone. He is a lifelong resident of New Rochelle, attending public

school and graduating from New Rochelle High School in 1968. Judge Carbone is married to Lorraine Carbone; they are the proud parents of two adult sons.

Judge Carbone was appointed as a Judge to the New Rochelle City Court bench by Mayor Noam Bramson in 2010. He enjoys being a judge and it shows—his staff finds him to be very pleasant and personable. Judge Carbone enjoys the varied areas of the law he covers as a City Court Judge. He is always respectful of the litigants and always tries to encourage everyone to work together to resolve matters.

Prior to becoming a Judge, he practiced law for 33 years and was active in the New Rochelle community and was Chairman of the Planning Board for 26 years. Judge Carbone has a wonderful sense of community, which he has instilled in his sons, and has culminated in both his sons earning their Boy Scout Eagle Awards, including the construction of the New Rochelle Police Memorial Garden in front of the New Rochelle Police Headquarters and New Rochelle City Courthouse.

Judge Carbone is honored to have served as Judge for the City of New Rochelle.

The Honorable Susan I. Kettner



Judge Susan Kettner is a third-generation attorney, and the first woman to be elected as a New Rochelle City Court Judge. Susan was appointed by the Administrative Judge as an Acting County Court Judge to preside over the newly created Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Part. She was also designated as the DWI/DWAI Judge for the New Rochelle City Court, presiding over all phases of these cases from arraignment to plea or jury trial.

Prior to ascending to the bench, Susan enjoyed a successful career as a general practitioner, concentrating in Mental Hygiene Article 81 guardianships, real estate, (transactional and litigation), Trusts and Estates, and Federal Criminal practice. She served as the Chair of the New Rochelle Board of Appeals on Zoning for five years, and she was the first woman elected President of the New Rochelle Bar Association. Susan volunteers her services as a CLE lecturer, and as a mentor for New Rochelle school children in an ABA-designed program sponsored by the New Rochelle Bar Association.

Judge Kettner is among the first class of judges to interpret and implement the legislative changes in the criminal justice system (Raise the Age, bail, and discovery reform), and recent statutory changes in landlord-tenant law that affect our citizens during the Covid-19 crisis.

Judge Kettner looks forward to some post-Pandemic travel and returning to the practice of law.

The Honorable Gladys E. Braxton



Gladys E. Braxton received her undergraduate degree from Fisk University, Nashville, TN in Political Science. Gladys went on to attend Syracuse University College of Law. While in Law School, she worked as an intern for the Onondaga County Department of Social Services. She graduated from Syracuse Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1980.

Ms. Braxton was a Reginald Heber Smith Scholar at Migrant Farm Worker Legal Services in Newburgh, NY from 1980 to 1982. From 1982 to 1983, she

went into private practice. This experience led to Orange County Legal Aid where she handled Family Law and Criminal cases. While there, she became supervising Attorney for Family Court before leaving in 1988.

Gladys served as a Hearing Examiner in the Office of Court Administration for Orange County, NY. During her dedicated 32 year tenure, this title was changed to Support Magistrate until her retirement in November 2020.

Highland Falls, NY is where Gladys grew up. As she carried the torch for other minorities in her community, Ms. Braxton was the 1st African American in Highland Falls, NY, to be inducted into the National Honor Society while graduating from high school 1 year early. Over the years, Gladys was honored by the Newburgh Branch of the NAACP and The African American Committee of Middletown for her generous work in the community. She had the pleasure of serving on Board of Directors of Mid-Hudson Legal Services and the Sarah Wells Girl Scout Council. For many years, Gladys was a mentor for the New Vision Law and Government Program. Many high school and college students interned with her. She served as a judge for the High School Moot Court Competitions in Orange County, NY for over 10 years. Gladys is the widow of James Jennings devoted mother of two young men, Joseph P. McMiller and Franklin J. Jennings and proud grandmother of Ava Joy McMiller.

In recognition of your Exemplary Service to the NYS Unified Court System



WE THANK YOU!