

Downtown Court Trip

Friday, August 26, 2022

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Introduction made by:



Dean Aviva Abramovsky
University at Buffalo
School of Law
State University of New York

Court Tour Guides:



Tasha E. Moore, Esq. '98
Deputy District Executive
8th Judicial District



Bridget M. O'Connell, Esq. '98
NYS ADR Coordinator
8th Judicial District

Speakers:



Hon. Shirley Troutman
Associate Judge
Court of Appeals



Hon. Gerald J. Whalen '83
Presiding Justice
Fourth Department



Hon. Kevin M. Carter '89
Administrative Judge
8th Judicial District



Andrew Isenberg, Esq. '92
District Executive
8th Judicial District



Aviva Abramovsky is the law school's 19th permanent dean and the first woman to hold the position. She is an expert in insurance law, commercial law, regulation of financial entities and legal ethics. She is the former chair of the New York State Bar Association's Task Force on Autonomous Vehicles and the Law where she received the Professor David D. Siegel Award on Torts, Insurance and Compensation. She is currently a member of the board of directors for the Erie County Bar Foundation and serves as a member of the New York State Independent Review Committee for Nominations to the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government.

Since her arrival at UB School of Law in June of 2017, Dean Abramovsky has established the law school as a hub for legal education at all levels. In addition to the traditional JD program, four LLM programs, and a two-year degree for internationally trained attorneys, the law school now offers an undergraduate program in law – one of just two in the nation – and a brand-new Doctor of Juridical Science.

Under her leadership, the law school's clinical legal education program has expanded to include the launch of a new Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic, and the Community Engagement Legal Clinic. The law school's Innocence and Justice Project has been revitalized through our Advocacy Institute. And the law school has implemented a series of new diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives including the creation of a faculty-led DEI committee focused on cultivating and maintaining a diverse and inclusive law school environment.

At the same time, the dean has led the law school through a particularly difficult few years, ensuring a swift and smooth transition to online learning, while protecting the health and safety of the law school community throughout the ongoing global pandemic.

Dean Aviva Abramovsky
Dean and Professor of Law

University at Buffalo
School of Law
State University of New York
Room 319
Buffalo, NY 14260



Hon. Shirley Troutman
Associate Judge

**New York State
Court of Appeals
20 Eagle Street
Albany, NY 12207**

Hon. Shirley Troutman is an Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals. Judge Troutman was nominated to serve on the court by Governor Kathy Hochul and on January 12, 2022, she was unanimously confirmed by the New York State Senate. Prior to her current appointment, Judge Troutman served as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division 4th Department.

Judge Troutman previously served as a trial judge in New York State Supreme Court, assigned to the Eighth Judicial District, where she handled matrimonial and general civil litigations matters. Prior to her election to Supreme Court, Judge Troutman was a County Court Judge where she handled felony criminal cases, appeals and civil matters.

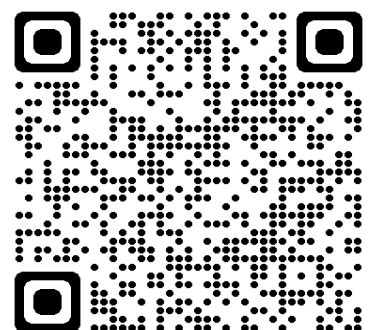
Before joining the bench, she was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, Assistant State Attorney General, and an Assistant District Attorney.

She recently served as co-chair of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission and was a member of the Ethics Commission of the New York State Unified Court System. Judge Troutman also served as a Member of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics. She has served as an Adjunct Professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School and as a Lecturer at the New York State Judicial Institute, as well as CLE programs and seminars, including serving as a Faculty Member for the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence.

Judge Troutman received a B.S. from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a J.D. from Albany Law School. She is also designated as an Advanced Science Technology and Resource (ASTAR) fellow, which is a program sponsored by the United States Department of Justice.

She is the recipient of many honors.

**Learn more about Judge
Troutman and the Court
of Appeals here!**





Presiding Justice Gerald J. Whalen was the third of seven children born to Helen and Jerry Whalen in Buffalo in 1956. He graduated from Canisius College in 1979, the first in his family to go beyond a high school education. During college, Presiding Justice Whalen supported himself with various jobs – doing piece work in the machine shop at the Eastman Machine Company, working as a laborer at General Mills, and painting houses.

After spending one year in an administrative position at the Office of the Erie County District Attorney after college, he enrolled in what is now known as the University at Buffalo School of Law, graduating in the Spring of 1983. In his final year, he was awarded the Robert J. Connelly Award for excellence in trial practice. Following law school, Presiding Justice Whalen began a 21-year career as a trial lawyer, representing clients in civil and criminal cases in federal and state courtrooms throughout the Eighth Judicial District (including Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties). He rose to the position of litigation partner with Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, now known as Barclay Damon, LLP, and served on the firm's Diversity Committee. He also served as the firm's Associate and Hiring Partner for the Buffalo office, which afforded him the opportunity to mentor young lawyers as they entered into the practice of law.

During this period, Presiding Justice Whalen had the privilege to teach as an adjunct professor at Canisius College, his alma mater, where he engaged with first-year students on social, political, governmental, and legal topics. Since becoming a Justice, he continues to share his experience and expertise with lawyers and judges as a lecturer at various seminars. Between 2002 and 2012, he served on the Eighth Judicial District Committee on Character and Fitness, the committee charged with making recommendations to the Appellate Division concerning the admission of law graduates to the bar.

Presiding Justice Whalen left private practice in 2005, when the voters of Western New York elected him to New York State Supreme Court. As a Supreme Court Justice, he presided over jury and nonjury trials for six years and was recognized for his fair and impartial conduct both inside and outside the courtroom.

In 2012, Presiding Justice Whalen was honored to be elected by his fellow judges as President of the Supreme Court Justices Association, Eighth Judicial District, and to be recognized by the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, Western New York Regional Affiliate as trial judge of the year. That same year, Presiding Justice Whalen was designated as a Justice of the Appellate Division Fourth Department, moving from handling cases in the eight counties where he had previously practiced as a trial attorney to reviewing cases from the 22 counties of Western and Central New York.

On January 7, 2016, Presiding Justice Whalen assumed the role of Presiding Justice of the Fourth Department, a position he still holds today. As the Presiding Justice, he oversees and administers the Fourth Department and its 200 plus employees, in addition to his duties as a full-time appellate justice. He also sits on the five Justice Administrative Board that manages the courts throughout New York, which is made up of the Chief Justice of the New York Court of Appeals and the Presiding Justices of each of the four Appellate Departments.

As the only representative of Western and Central New York on the Administrative Board, Presiding Justice Whalen takes pride in giving a voice to the citizens of our community in the statewide administration of justice.

Presiding Justice Whalen and his wife Nora have lived in Hamburg, New York for over 35 years where they raised their two sons, Conor P. Whalen (now married to Sara Jo Scime Whalen, Esq.) and Gerald J. Whalen II, Esq.

Throughout his career as both a trial lawyer and a judge, Presiding Justice Whalen has made time to give back to the community in which he lives and serves. Justice Whalen was recognized by the Justice John J. Hillery Memorial Scholarship Foundation for his 20+ plus year commitment to raising scholarship funds for students in need and served on the board of directors of the Franciscan Center in Buffalo. Justice Whalen was also honored to be a recipient of the 2016 Leadership Award from the Justices & Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert organization.

Hon. Gerald J. Whalen '83
Presiding Justice

**Supreme Court of the
State of New York
Appellate Division
Fourth Judicial
Department
50 East Avenue, Suite
200
Rochester, NY 14604**

**Learn more about
Justice Whalen and
the Fourth
Department here!!**

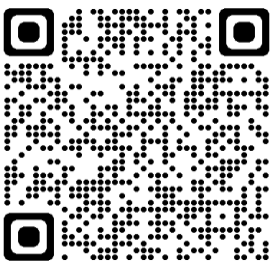




Hon. Kevin M. Carter '89
Administrative Judge

8th Judicial District
Erie County Old County Hall
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

**Learn more
about the 8th
Judicial District
here!!**



Hon. Kevin M. Carter graduated from Canisius College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1986. He studied law at the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School and earned a Juris Doctor degree in 1989. After graduating from law school, he became a sole practitioner. He ran a general practice but concentrated in family and domestic relations law. He practiced law in New York State Supreme Court, County Courts, Local Criminal Courts and Federal District Court.

In 1998, he received The Honorable Michael F. Dillon Law Guardian of the Year Award from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York for the Fourth Judicial Department for distinguished service as a children's attorney.

He joined the law firm of Sullivan & Oliverio in 1999. His practice concentrated in general civil litigation. In addition to practicing law, he served as a full-time professor of criminal law and procedure at Erie Community College-North from 1992 to 2002. He currently serves as an adjunct professor at Canisius College.

Judge Carter was elected in November 2002 to Erie County Family Court and retained in 2012. Throughout his years on the bench, he has worked hard to interpret the law and render decisions in line with basic principles of justice, fairness, and equality for all who appear before him.

Judge Carter was designated Acting Supreme Court Justice in 2008 and presided over civil jury trials and post-divorce matters in State Supreme Court in Erie County. In 2012, Judge Carter received the Minority Bar Association of Western New York Trailblazer Award in recognition of courage, initiative, innovation, risk-taking and leadership.

In 2017, New York State raised the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years of age, ensuring that young people in New York receive the intervention and evidence-based treatment they need. Judge Carter co-chaired the Erie County Raise-the-Age Committee, developing the plan that established the Erie County Youth Part in Buffalo, New York. In 2018, he was appointed the presiding judge of the Erie County Youth Part, which has jurisdiction over felony charges and accompanying misdemeanors committed by adolescent and juvenile offenders. In 2020, Judge Carter was honored with the Liberty Bell Award during the Erie County Association Law Day Ceremony in recognition of his involvement with the implementation of Youth Part pursuant to the Raise the Age Legislation.

Judge Carter served as the Eighth Judicial District's Supervising Judge of Family Courts between 2019 and 2021. In July 2021, he was appointed Administrative Judge of the Eighth Judicial District where he manages the day-to-day operations of the trial courts in the Eighth Judicial District, which comprises Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties.



Andrew Isenberg, Esq. '92
District Executive

Eighth Judicial District
Old County Hall
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Andrew B. Isenberg, Esq. is the District Executive for the Eighth Judicial District where he oversees and manages day to day operations of the courts in the eight counties of Western New York under Administrative Judge Hon. Kevin M. Carter, Acting J.S.C. He supervises over 860 non-judicial employees and is responsible for the management and administration of an annual budget in excess of \$108 million and 26 courthouse facilities. He is the senior District Executive in the Unified Court System, having served since December 2004.

Mr. Isenberg is a graduate of Northwestern University (B.A., with honors in economics, 1989) and the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 1992). He is admitted to the Bar of New York and the United States District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Western District of New York.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Isenberg was First Assistant Erie County Attorney. He has private practice experience with the former law firm of Offermann, Mahoney, Cassano, Pigott, Greco & Whelan and the former law firm of Gresens & Gillen. Mr. Isenberg began his legal career as a law clerk for the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, for Presiding Justice M. Dolores Denman.

Mr. Isenberg is a member of the Bar Association of Erie County and an Adult Committee Leader for Boy Scout Troop 457. He is a past president of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, former vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, Western New York Chapter, former chair of the Appellate Practice Committee of the Bar Association of Erie County, past president of the Mid Day Club of Buffalo, past chair of UJF Campaign Super Sunday 2014, and former member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo Board of Governors.

Mr. Isenberg has lectured for the Office of Court Administration and Bar Association of Erie County on appellate practice, e-filing, technology in the Courts, court interpreting, access to justice and careers in the courts. He also lectured for the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts on access to justice initiatives in the courts. He serves as a member of the Eighth Judicial District Diversity Steering Committee and the Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee. He has previously served on the New York State Court Officer Evaluation Board, Unified Court System Workforce Planning Committee, and various Office of Court Administration Statewide Committees.

Mr. Isenberg is a recipient of the 2021 Award of Merit from the Bar Association of Erie County. In 2020, he received the Champion for Justice Award from the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project.



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New York State Judicial Districts

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