



# PRESS RELEASE

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

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## **Chief Judge DiFiore Broadens Mission of Statewide Task Force Aimed at Preventing Wrongful Convictions in New York**

**New York** – Chief Judge Janet DiFiore today announced the expansion of the New York State Justice Task Force’s mission to include the study of issues relating to bail and speedy trial, as well as the broader issues of efficiency and accessibility throughout New York’s justice system that have been the focus of her Excellence Initiative, launched last year to enhance the quality and delivery of justice services statewide.

Chief Judge DiFiore is a past co-chair of the Justice Task Force, formed in 2009 by then Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman to examine ways to avert wrongful convictions and whose work has led to major statutory changes to the procedures used to conduct eyewitness identifications and interrogations, among other reforms.

Led by Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, a former Senior Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals and now of counsel at Greenberg Traurig, and Hon. Mark Dwyer, an acting State Supreme Court justice and former prosecutor, the Justice Task Force is made up of judges, defense lawyers, prosecutors, police chiefs, academics, legislators and other experts and advocates.

In carrying out its newly broadened mission, Judge DiFiore has appointed four additional members to the Justice Task Force: Paul Schechtman, a law partner at Bracewell; Barry Kamins, a partner at Aidala Bertuna & Kamins and retired State Supreme Court justice; Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas; and Fulton County Sheriff Richard Giardino, a former Fulton County Court judge and district attorney.

To learn more about the Justice Task Force, visit: [www.nyjusticetaskforce.com](http://www.nyjusticetaskforce.com).

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