

## **AD1 2.0: Appellate Division, First Department Holds First-Ever Virtual Admission Ceremonies**

On Monday, April 27, 2020, at 10am and noon, the Appellate Division, First Department held its first-ever virtual admissions ceremonies, in which a total of 19 new attorneys were admitted via a Skype meeting that was livestreamed over the internet.

Hon. Rosalyn Richter, the Justice Presiding over the ceremony, thanked the Committee on Character and Fitness and its Counsel, Veronica Guerrero, congratulated the new attorneys, and noted the unprecedented nature of conducting Court business remotely. She drew attention to the photo that served as a virtual background for each Justice's video, stating, "The background that you see is our beautiful courtroom [where ceremonies normally take place], and I hope that someday you will be able to come see this majestic setting in person."

Justice Richter also acknowledged the uncertainty and stress that the new attorneys are facing, adding, "The best advice I can give you as you navigate your first few months as new attorneys is to remember there is support for you as you go through these uncharted waters. Find a senior lawyer, a counselor at a bar association, a professor or a mentor to turn to when you are not sure how to proceed or just feel overwhelmed by the current situation."

Justice Richter concluded her remarks with a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt: "Surely, in the light of history, it is more intelligent to hope rather than to fear, to try rather than not to try. For one thing we know beyond all doubt: Nothing has ever been achieved by the person who says, 'It can't be done.'"

Hon. Rolando T. Acosta, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department, said, "I am incredibly proud of my Justices and staff who made this possible. In these uncertain times, I hope that the public is somewhat comforted by the fact that courts in New York are continuing to administer justice, which includes the admission of new lawyers to the bar. The entire Court extends our heartfelt congratulations to the newly minted attorneys and their families."

Recorded videos of the ceremonies can be viewed [here \(for the 10am ceremony\)](#) and [here \(for the 12pm ceremony\)](#). The Court will continue virtually admitting new attorneys next Monday and every Monday thereafter, until further notice.