

# THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT AMERICAN INN OF COURT

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*Annual  
Installation  
Ceremony  
October 14, 2020*

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*Featuring Remarks From  
Incoming President Hon. Andrea Phoenix  
Outgoing President Evelyn Kalenscher, Esq.*

*With Keynote Speaker  
Hon. Laura Taylor Swain, U.S. District Court Judge, SDNY*

# PROGRAM

## ❖ **Welcome**

❖ *Jess Bunshaft, Esq. and Elizabeth E. Schlissel, Esq.*

## ❖ **Invocation**

❖ *Bishop Phillip E. Elliott*

## ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance**

❖ *John M. Zenir, Esq.*

## ❖ **Toast to Domus**

❖ *Nassau County Bar Association President Dorian R. Glover, Esq.*

## ❖ **Welcoming Words from National Inns President**

❖ *Hon. Kent A. Jordan, US Circuit Judge, US Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit*

## ❖ **Salute to Founders**

❖ *Hon. Norman St. George, Administrative Judge of Nassau County*

## ❖ **Presentation of Hon. Gregory Carman and Kathleen Beckett Scholarship Awards**

❖ *Lois Carter Schlissel, Esq.*

## ❖ **Outgoing President's Remarks**

❖ *Evelyn Kalenscher, Esq.*

## ❖ **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

❖ *Hon. Leonard B. Austin, Justice of the Appellate Division, 2nd Dept.*

## ❖ **Keynote Address**

❖ *Hon. Laura Taylor Swain, US District Court Judge, SDNY*

## ❖ **Presentation of Gifts**

❖ *Matthew Flanagan, Esq.*

## ❖ **Installation of Officers and Executive Committee**

❖ *Hon. Laura Taylor Swain*

## ❖ **Installation of President**

❖ *Hon. Laura Taylor Swain*

## ❖ **Incoming President's Remarks**

❖ *Hon. Andrea Phoenix, Nassau County District Court Judge*



# Judge Laura Taylor Swain

## Keynote Speaker

Laura Taylor Swain was appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on July 11, 2000, and entered on duty on August 31, 2000.

Judge Swain graduated from Harvard-Radcliffe College and from the Harvard Law School. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Constance Baker Motley from 1982 to 1983. She practiced law with Debevoise & Plimpton until 1996.

Judge Swain was the first woman, and first person of color, to serve as a member of the New York State Board of Law Examiners, and served as such for 10 years prior to taking the bench.

She served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of New York from November 1996 until August 2000. Judge Swain chaired the Advisory Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States on the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure from 2007 to 2010. Judge Swain has served the judiciary and the community through committee and board membership of numerous organizations, and received numerous awards.

Since May 2017, Judge Swain has presided, by designation pursuant to the federal PROMESA statute, over the PROMESA debt restructuring proceedings for Puerto Rico.



# The Honorable Andrea Phoenix

## Incoming President



Andrea Phoenix is a Nassau County District Court Judge in Hempstead, New York. She is also an Acting Nassau County Court Judge. She was re-elected to a third term in 2018. Judge Phoenix presides over two problem-solving courts. These include the Drug Treatment Court and the Mental Health Court. She adjudicates both misdemeanor and felony cases. Before taking the bench, Judge Phoenix was an attorney in private practice, and concentrated in the area of Family Law. She was an active member of the New York State Law Guardian Panel, now known as the Attorneys for the Children Program.

Judge Phoenix received her undergraduate degree from Hampton University and her graduate degree from The Ohio State University. She earned her law degree from Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, formerly known as Hofstra University School of Law, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the Environmental Law Digest. At graduation, she was awarded the Service to the Law School Award.

Judge Phoenix is the incoming president of the Theodore Roosevelt American Inn of Court. She is a past president of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, the Nassau County Women's Bar Association, and the New York Chapter of Family and Conciliation Courts. Notably, the Judge was the first African American president of all three organizations. Her other professional affiliations include: Nassau Lawyers' of Long Island (Corresponding Secretary), the Nassau County Bar Association's WE CARE Advisory Board, the Nassau County Criminal Courts Bar Association, Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association, Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County (Associate Member), the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association and the Nassau Community College Paralegal Advisory Board.



# Hon. Andrea Phoenix

## Incoming President (cont'd)

Judge Phoenix is appointed to the New York State Unified Court System Family Violence Task Force, and most recently, she became a member of the Nassau County Family Court Children's Center Advisory Committee. Over the years, she has been active in many other community and public service organizations.

Judge Phoenix has devoted much time to mentoring women and youth in her community. Her other affiliations include Antioch Baptist Church of Hempstead-Board of Trustees, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Nassau Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Long Island Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, where she serves as the Facet Chair of International Trends and Services.

The Judge has received various awards and accolades because of her organizational involvement. She is the first recipient of both the Nassau County Women's Bar Association's Bessie Ray Geffner, Esq. Memorial Award and the Virginia C. Duncombe Scholarship Award. She also received the organization's distinguished Rona Seider Award. Operation Get Ahead, Inc. of Hempstead, New York, presented her with their TrailBlazer and Rosa Parks Awards and its Martin Luther King, Jr. Beacon of Hope Award. In 2015, Judge Phoenix was honored by the County, receiving recognition at its Black History Month Celebration for Contributions of African Americans in Nassau County Government, and in 2016 she was also honored by the East Nassau Chapter of the League of Women Voters. In March 2017, she received the Women on the Move Award from Faith Baptist Church of Hempstead, New York, and the Trailblazing Woman Award from the Long Island Caribbean American Association, Inc. In July 2017, the Judge received the Stephen Gassman Award from the Nassau County Bar Association - WE CARE Advisory Board. Most recently, in 2018, Judge Phoenix was honored by Hofstra Law School and was one of the recipients of the Distinguished Alumni on the Bench Award. In 2019 the Judge was honored by the Eastern Baptist Association. In 2020, she received the Visionary Award from Operation Get Ahead, Inc. and the Hon. Alfred S. Robbins Memorial Award jointly from the Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association and the Nassau County Courts' Black History Committee. Judge Phoenix is listed in "Who's Who in Black New York City".

## President

Hon. Andrea Phoenix

## President Elect

Jess Bunshaft

## Programming

Hon. Helen Voutsinas

Sarika Kapoor

## Additional Members of the Executive Committee

Hon. Leonard B. Austin

Gale D. Berg

Susan Fagen Britt

Hon. Michael A. Ciaffa

Scott M. Druker

Veronica Ebhuoma

Richard Eisenberg

Hon. Tricia Ferrell

Hon. Steven M. Jaeger

Hon. John L. Kase

Harry H. Kutner

Hon. Randy Sue Marber

Mathew Marcucci

Debora G. Nobel

Craig D. Robins

Lois Carter Schlissel

Kevin Schlosser

Hon. Denise L. Sher

Russell G. Tisman

Hon. Ira B. Warshawsky

Omid Zareh

Greg Zucker

## Treasurer

Michael Berger

## CLE Coordinator

Thomas A. O'Rourke

## Annual Dinner

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Elizabeth E. Schlissel

## Past President Directors

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Michael Cardello, III

Kevin Schlosser

Hon. Denise L. Sher

Paul F. Millus

Hon. Michele M. Woodard

Marjorie E. Bornes

Hon. Steven M. Jaeger

Andrew M. Thaler

Hon. John L. Kase

Douglas T. Burns

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Burton T. Ryan

Hon. Joanna Seybert

Peter J. Tomao

Hon. Michael L. Orenstein

Dolores Fredrich

## Secretary

Matthew Flanagan

## Membership Chair

Hon. Randall T. Eng

## Mentoring

Andrew M. Thaler

Thomas A. O'Rourke

Hon. Arthur D. Spatt

Hon. Dorothy Eisenberg

Stephen P. Scaring

Hon. George C. Pratt

Hon. James Niehoff

Evelyn Kalenscher

## Law School Liaisons

Prof. Maryam Franzella

Hofstra

Prof. Peter Ausili

Touro

Prof. Rosa Castello

St. John's

## Virtual Installation

### Ceremony Committee

Jess Bunshaft (Co-Chair)

Elizabeth Schlissel (Co-Chair)

Hon. Leonard B. Austin

Hon. Marilyn K. Genoa

Matthew Flanagan

Lois Carter Schlissel

## Technical Staff

Chair: Allyson D. Burger

Hector Herrera

Jade Hofbauer