

HON. SOMA S. SYED, J.C.C.

JUDICIAL OFFICES (Elected to Civil Court of the City of New York, Queens County, 2022 to 2031)

Judge, Queens County Civil Court, Queens, NY, Jan 2024 – Present

- Preside over Civil Court Parts.
- Conduct jury and bench trials, hold conferences, and settle various matters.
- Render pre-trial decisions on various issues.

Judge, Criminal Court of the City of New York, New York, NY, Jan 2022 – Jan 2024

- Presided over arraignments (as an Acting Supreme Court Justice in night courts), Citywide Youth Part (as an Accessible Magistrate), Felony Parts, All Purpose Parts, Combined Parts, Desk Appearance Part (DAT), and Summons Part.
- Conducted *Crawford* hearings, parole recognizance hearings, good cause extension hearings, jurisdiction hearings, protective order hearings, and discovery hearings and conferences.
- Conducted Summons trials, reviewed and approved search warrants, administered plea allocutions, and imposed sentences.
- Wrote decisions on a wide-ranging criminal law issues such as facial sufficiency, speedy trial, suppression of evidence and discovery.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal Attorney, Soma Syed & Associates, Forest Hills, NY, Jun 2013 – Dec 2021

- Represented individual and corporate clients in a variety of civil transactional matters.
- Appeared in Supreme Court (Civil), Civil Court, Family Court, Immigration Court, Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, and Eastern District of New York.

Special Prosecutor, Village of Hempstead, Hempstead, NY Jan 2014 – Mar 2020

- Prosecuted traffic, housing, and general village code violation cases.

Attorney, The Law Offices of Soma S. Syed, Jackson Heights, NY, Jun 2004 – May 2013

- Represented individual and corporate clients in a variety of civil matters in Supreme Court (Civil), Civil Court, Family Court, Immigration Court, Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York and Eastern District of New York.

Of Counsel, Ruiz Law Group, P.C., Jackson Heights, NY, Jun 2009 – Mar 2012

- Represented individual and corporate clients in both federal and state litigations and bankruptcy proceedings.

Law Intern, Civil Rights and Disabilities Law Clinic, Albany Law School, Aug 2001 – Dec 2001

- Represented clients with disabilities in administrative hearings (admitted to practice under Student Practice Order).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- NYC Equal Justice Implementation Committee (EJIC) in Queens, Co-Chair, Jan 2025 – Present.
- Asian American Judges Association of New York, Board Member, Jan 2025 – Present.
- NYC Equal Access to Justice Committee, Member, July 2024 – Present.
- NYC Equal Justice Implementation Committee (EJIC) in Queens, Member, Apr 2024 – Present.
- National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), Member, 2022 – Present; Committee Member, 2023.
- New York Chapter of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ-NY), MentorJet Program Participant, 2022 – Present.
- The Judicial Friends Association, Member, 2022 – Present.
- NYC Criminal Court Judges Association, Member, 2022 – Present.
- NYC Civil Court Judges Association, Member, 2022 – Present.
- NYC Civil and Housing Court Summer Internship Program, Participant, 2024 – Present.
- NYC Criminal Court Summer Internship Program (SIP), Participant, 2022 – 2023.
- New York State Bar Association, Member, 2004 – Present; Hurricane Sandy Taskforce, 2012 – 2013; Solo and Small Practice Advisory Panel, 2017 - 2021; Lawyer Referral and Information Service, Member 2010 – 2021, Committee Chair, 2019 – 2021;
- Queens County Women's Bar Association, President, 2020 – 2021; Board Member, 2010 – 2020, 2021-2023; Member, 2010 – Present; Lead Organizer, International Conference on Women & Children in Cuba, 2016.
- Asian American Bar Association of New York, Member, 2025 – Present.
- Queens County Women's Bar Foundation, Chairperson, 2017 – 2021
- Community Alliance Group (CAG), Senior Vice President, 2018 – 2021.
- South Asian Bar Association of New York, Member, 2016 – Present.
- Muslim Bar Association of New York, Member, 2010 – 2017, 2024 – Present.
- Queens County Bar Association, Member, 2004 – 2017, 2021 – Present.
- South Asian and Indo-Caribbean Bar Association of Queens, 2018 – Present.
- Refugee Assistance Project at Kennedy Airport, Volunteer Attorney, 2017.
- Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Foreclosure Prevention Pro Bono Attorney, 2009 – 2015.
- Civil Court of the County of Queens, Small Claims Arbitrator, 2010 – 2014.
- Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), Volunteer Election Attorney, Nov 2010.

HONORS

- Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. King's Visionary Awards Gala, Nassau, NY, Mar 2025.
- Honor, South Asian & Indo-Caribbean Bar Association of Queens, Queens, NY, Mar 2025.
- Certificate of Appreciation, New York City Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst, New York, NY, Apr 2024.
- Special Recognition Award, Speaker and Councilor Jahed Choudhury, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, London, UK, Aug 2023.
- Special Recognition Award, 41st Annual Bangladesh Medical Association of North America (BMANA) Convention, New York, NY, Jul 2023.

- Reception & Award (for being the first Bangladeshi American elected judge in the United States of America), Muktiyoddha Sangsad Sontan Command, Tangail District Branch, Bangladesh, Jan 2023.
- Reception & Award (for being the first Bangladeshi American elected judge in the United States of America), Moulvibazar District Bar Association, Bangladesh, Jan 2023.
- Reception & Award (for being the first Bangladeshi American elected judge in the United States of America), Friends Garden, Moulvibazar, Bangladesh, Jan 2023.
- Honor and Recognition (for outstanding community and social service to the Bangladeshi American population in New York), Sher-E-Bangla-Medical College Alumni Association of North America (SBMCANA) Executive Committee, New York, NY, May 2022.
- Honor (for achievements and contributions to the Asian Pacific American legal community), Asian American Bar Association of New York, New York, NY, May 2022.
- Recognition and Appreciation (for outstanding progress and pioneering role in the community), Indian Diaspora Council Int'l (IDC), New York, NY, Mar 2022.
- Achievement Award, Interfaith Council for Community Development, New York, NY, Mar 2022.
- Recognition (for outstanding achievement being elected as the first Bangladeshi Judge in the history of the New York City Civil Court), New York City Bangladeshi Civil Service Society, New York, NY, Dec 2021.
- Bangladeshi American Pride Award (for being the first Bangladeshi American Judge in New York State), TBN 24 USA, NY, Nov 2021.
- Appreciation Award (for outstanding contribution, excellent and dedicated service to the community, and going above and beyond serving and making the community a better place), The Sikh Cultural Society Inc., New York, NY, 2021.
- Appreciation Award (for contribution to the community), Brahmanbaria Society of USA, Inc., New York, NY, 2021.
- President's Citation, Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, New York, NY, May 2021.
- The 2021 Power Lawyers Award, Schneps Media, New York NY, Apr 2021.
- Certificate of Recognition, Dare to Run, New York, NY, Dec 2020.
- Non-Resident Bangladeshi Awards (for excellent performance and sincere commitment to North American Bangladeshi Community Success), New York, NY, Sep 2018.
- Women Leader of the Year, New American Women's Forum of New York, New American Democratic Club Inc. & New American Youth Forum of New York, New York, NY, Jan 2018.
- Honoree, National Action Network (NAN) West Nassau Chapter Prestigious Women's Gala, Nassau, NY, March 2017.
- Heroes Award, South Asian Political Action Committee (SAPAC), Nassau, NY, Sep 2016.
- 911 Survivors Scars Award, Stars International Band & Geeta Mandir Cultural Center, Queens, NY, Sep 2016.
- Woman of the Year 2012/2013, The National Association of Professional Women, NY, NY, 2013.
- Recognition, The National Association of Professional Women, NY, NY, 2012.
- Selected Citations by public officials:
 - Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, Congresswoman Grace Meng, 2018.
 - The Public Advocate for the City of New York Certificate, The Public Advocate for the City of New York Letitia James, 2018, 2017.
 - Congressional Achievement Award, Congressman Gregory Meeks, 2017.
 - Proclamation (March 26, 2017 to be Soma Syed, Esq., Recognition Day in Westchester County), Westchester County Executive Robert P. Astorino, 2017.

- State of New York Senate Legislative Resolution, New York State Senator Kevin Parker, 2017.
- Town of Hempstead Citation, Town of Hempstead Supervisor Anthony J. Santino, 2016.

WRITINGS & PRESENTATIONS

- Keynote Commencement Speaker, Washington University of Science & Technology, Alexandria, VA, Jun 2025.
- Presenter & Organizer, NYS Office of Court Administration’s first Eid Program, Queens, NY, Apr 2025.
- Panelist & Organizer, NYS Office of Court Administration’s Asian American Heritage Month Program, Queens, NY, May 2025.
- Panelist, Asian Americans in Public Service, Nassau, NY, May 2025.
- Written Decisions in New York Law Journal, *People v. Middleton*, 187 N.Y.S. 3d 552 (Crim Ct, NY County 2023), and *People v. Nelson*, 166 N.Y.S. 3d 511 (Crim Ct, NY County 2022).
- Author, *100 years later, the 19th Amendment Matters More Than Ever*, Queens Daily Eagle, Sep 6, 2020.
- Panelist, “Community and Culture in the Time of Covid-19,” moderated by New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, 2020.
- Guest Speaker, “New York Times Summer Academy Online Program,” 2020.
- Panelist, “Women's Advocacy & Empowerment – Social, Economic & Political,” organized by Indian Diaspora Council Int’l, 2018.
- Panelist, “A Discussion on DACA, TPS and the Role of Immigration in the Trump Era,” organized by the Queens County Young Democrats, 2017.
- Presenter, “Know Your Rights: Landlord-Tenant Issues,” organized by the Queens Public Library, 2017, 2012.
- Author, *Islam in the Workplace Guide for Employers* by Muslim Bar Association of New York, 2012.
- Moderator, Queens District Attorney Candidate Forum (2019), Queens Borough President Candidate Forum, 2020.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Albany Law Magazine, Fall 2022, Apr 2017.
- Queens County Women’s Bar Association Magazine, 2021.
- Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Aug 2020.
- Queens Daily Eagle, Aug 2020.
- New York Law Journal, Jun 2019.
- Regular appearances in Bengali TV channel TBN24, Time Television.

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York State Admission: 2004.

United States District Court Admission: 2009.

United States Tax Court Admission: 2013.

United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit Admission: 2015, 2020.

EDUCATION

J.D., Albany Law School of Union University, Albany, NY, May 2003.

B.A., The City College of the City University of New York, New York, NY, Jun 1998.