

HON. VIDYA PAPPACHAN

EXPERIENCE

Judge, New York City Criminal Court

QUEENS COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT, NY

January 2024 – Present

BRONX COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT, NY

December 2021- January 2024

- Preside over jury and bench trials, pre-trial suppression hearings, Sex Offender Registration (SORA) and sentencing hearings
- Oversee trial-ready matters with a focus on oldest cases in Criminal Courts in compliance with city-wide initiative
- Manage court proceedings in all-purpose parts, felony waiver parts and arraignments
- Conduct trial and discovery conferences, evaluate search warrant and cell-site/trap & trace warrant applications
- Write opinions, decisions and orders and trial documents
- Formulate legal memoranda and training materials for new judges and interns
- Work in collaboration with stakeholders from prosecutor's office and defender organizations to discuss various policy and procedural concerns
- Meet monthly with the Criminal Procedure Law Advisory Committee to discuss recommendations for any legislative corrections and amendments for consideration by lawmakers

Senior Court Attorney, Honorable Josh E. Hanshaft

NEW YORK COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT, New York, NY *February 2017 – December 2021*

- Drafted decisions, orders, jury charges, verdict sheets and trial documents
- Researched and advised judge on legal issues and conferenced pending matters with attorneys during pre-trial and trial proceedings
- Reviewed search warrant applications and cell-site/trap & trace warrant applications
- Supervised interns and created workshops to learn policy and improve writing and public speaking skills
- Assisted supervising judge in executing virtual preliminary hearings by collaborating with city stakeholders

KINGS COUNTY FAMILY COURT, Brooklyn, NY *September 2018 – December 2018; Ad hoc for continued trials to June 2019*

- Managed intake calendar in custody and visitation part related to guardianship applications, special immigration adjudication, temporary visitation orders and applications for orders of protection
- Issued temporary custody orders, modification orders and drafted decisions on objections following appeal
- Coordinated forensic evaluations and handled pre-trial conferences
- Assisted judge with evidentiary rulings during hearing and trials

Staff Attorney, The Legal Aid Society

CRIMINAL DEFENSE PRACTICE, Brooklyn, NY

October 2007 – February 2017

- Represented clients in all aspects on felony and misdemeanor criminal cases from inception to trial by providing advocacy at arraignments and during grand jury testimony, negotiating plea bargains, proffer agreements and various alternatives to incarceration
- Researched, analyzed and argued pre-trial hearings and post-judgment motions
- Provided holistic defense through collaborative mitigation advocacy by working with

- forensic social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists and other stakeholders
- Served as lead counsel and supervised younger attorneys during jury trials and evidentiary suppression hearings
- Lectured at CLE presentations for legal staff

Judicial Extern, Honorable Deborah A. Batts

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SDNY, New York, NY *Jan 2007 – May 2007*

Legal Intern, New York Stock Exchange, Division of Enforcement

New York, NY *September 2006 – December 2006*

Intern, Office of the New York Attorney General, Investment Protection Bureau

New York, NY *June 2006 – August 2006*

Paralegal, Nassau County Legal Aid Society

Hempstead, NY *October 2004 – May 2005*

Risk Management Analyst, Deutsche Bank AG

Boston, MA *June 2003 – August 2004*

Fund Accountant, Investors Bank & Trust Co.

Boston, MA *August 2002 – June 2003*

EDUCATION

Hofstra University School of Law, Hempstead, NY

Juris Doctor, Concentration in Corporate and Commercial Law, *May 2007*

National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), *June 2006 – July 2006*

University of London, Queen Mary School of Law, London, England

International Business Law Certificate, *June 2005 – August 2005*

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Bachelor of Arts, Economics, Commonwealth Honors College, *May 2002*

AFFILIATIONS

Criminal Court Judges' Association, Secretary (*Elected June 2026 - present*)

Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) Advisory Committee, Unified Court System

(*Appointed by Chief Administrative Judge, Joseph Zayas. March 2024 – present*)

New York City Bar Association, Council on Judicial Administration (*Appointed 2019 – present*)

Chair, Working Group on Racial Equity in New York State Courts (*2020 – 2023*)

South Asian Bar Association of New York (SABANY) (*2020 - present*)

President-Elect, Director of Mentorship Program, Vice President of Public Relations,

Vice President of Fellowships & Law Student Relations, Judiciary Committee

Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY)

South Asian Indo-Caribbean Bar Association of New York (SAICBA-Q)

Queens County Criminal Bar Association (QCCBA)

Queens Community Board 11 (*March 2021 – December 2021*)

Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission (*January 2022 – present*)

Equal Justice in the Courts Committee, Queens, NY (*January 2024 – present*)

Selected Published Decisions

- *People v Lowe*, 84 Misc.3d 1263(A) (Crim Ct, Queens County, Decided January 9, 2025)
- *People v Simmons*, 83 Misc.3d 1255(A) (Crim Ct, Queens County, Decided July 12, 2024)
- *People v Liu*, 83 Misc.3d 1251(A) (Crim Ct, Queens County, Decided July 19, 2024)
- *People v Herrera*, 83 Misc.3d 1267(A) (Crim Ct, Queens County, Decided June 3, 2024)
- *People v Cedeno-Ortiz*, 81 Misc.3d 1218(A) (Crim Ct, Bronx County, Decided May 31, 2023)

Speaking Engagements & Articles

- New York City Bar, *“Progress Report and Recommendations: Creating Lasting Reform in the Wake of Secretary Jeh Johnson’s Equal Justice Report,”* August 3, 2023
- Speaker/Moderator for SABANY’s Mentorship Program, April 2023
- Featured profile for “City & State,” *“The 2022 Power of Diversity: Asian 100,”* May 2022
- Featured profile for Hofstra University School of Law: Law News *“Judge Srividya (Vidya) Pappachan ’07 Discusses How Exploring Opportunities Led Her to an Unexpected Career in Public Service,”* March 2022
- Speaker for Franklin H. Williams Commission, *Mentorship Works*, February 2022
- Speaker for Hofstra Law School, *Hofstra Alumni Career Panel*, November 2021
- Speaker for St. John’s Law School, *Women in the Law Symposium*, November 2021
- Speaker for CUNY Law School, South Asian Law Students’ Association, *Women in the Law*, Nov. 2021
- Moderator for City Bar Working Group on Racial Equity meeting with affinity Bar Association Leaders, leaders of NYS Court System and National Center for State Courts, *Joint Stakeholder Meeting regarding Sec. Johnson’s 2020 Report on Racial Equity in NYS Courts*, October 2021
- Speaker for St. John’s University School of Law, Women’s Law Society, *Women of Color Collective*, October 2021
- Speaker for the City Bar, Thurgood Marshall Internship Program, *Diverse Career Opportunities in the Law*, July 2021
- Speaker with Historical Society of the New York Courts & St. John’s School of Law, *“Mightier than the Sword: Ending Racial Injustice in the New York Courts”*, March 2021
- Co-Creator of Podcast series: *Celebrate Women!* Featured interviews with women attorneys exploring professional and personal journeys as they navigate challenges relevant to the South Asian female diaspora, March 2021
- Founder of SABANY’s inaugural Mentorship Program, September 2020
- Created and hosted all programs presented through SABANY’s Mentorship Program, 2020-2022: *Careers in Public Interest Law, Unapologetically You: Women in the Law - Learn to Define Yourself, The Different Faces of Private Law, Resume Building and Interview Skills Workshop, The Art of Networking, Effective Oral Advocacy – Inside & Outside the Courtroom.*
- Moderator for Panel Discussion on *New York’s Bail Reform Law* featuring stakeholders in the development of new legislative changes, July 2020
- Speaker at South Bar Association of North America National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, *“Developments in 4th and 5th Amendment Law”*, June 2019