

HON. JOANNE B. WATTERS

Appointed NYC Criminal Court Judge, December 2015 - December 2023
Admitted to the Bar of the State of New York in 1993
Admitted to the Bar of the State of Connecticut in 1992

CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Supervising Judge of the NYC Criminal Court, Queens County

2021 to Present

Responsible for all aspects of court operation and administration at Queens Criminal Court, including judicial assignments, case flow management, increasing trial capacity, improving both arrest to arraignment times and efficiency, implementing new initiatives, reducing extended session overtime, assessing non-judicial staffing needs, improving facilities, and helping to develop and introduce new technologies into the daily routine of the court. Regular lecturer on numerous criminal law topics for the OCA Office of Justice Court Support, the OCA Office, and the NYC Criminal Court.

CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Criminal Court Judge of the City of New York, New York County & Queens County

2015 to 2021

Preside over hundreds of felony and misdemeanor arraignments and adjudicate misdemeanor criminal matters within twenty-four hours from arrest. Manage and resolve voluminous inventory of misdemeanor cases. Write decisions of law on facts presented and rules of evidence. Conduct evidentiary hearings and bench trials. Review search and arrest warrant applications and order said warrants where legally appropriate and permissible.

CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, KINGS COUNTY SUPERVISING JUDGE MICHAEL J. YAVINSKY

Kings County Criminal Court, New York

Supervising Court Attorney

2013 to 2015

Assigned legal research to court attorneys and evaluated completed work. Developed court and office policies and procedures and issued guidelines for implementation. Analyzed and prepared written interpretations of statutes and rules for the guidance of judicial and non-judicial personnel. Researched complex legal issues and drafted confidential opinions. Conferred with parties on complex proceedings and reviewed legal documents filed in connection with such proceedings. Assisted in the management, calendar and daily operation of the Criminal Court. Assisted judges, court clerks, assistant district attorneys, defense bar, court officers, court reporters, technical support and maintenance support to efficiently operate in the Criminal Court.

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL J. YAVINSKY

Queens Criminal Court, New York

Court Attorney, Trial Part

2012 to 2013

Researched and analyzed complex legal issues related to criminal cases pending before the Court and prepared memoranda with recommendations. Drafted opinions, court decisions, orders and jury charges. Conferred and advised Judge on legal matters. Arranged Judge's calendar and scheduled meetings and conferences. Conducted conferences with litigants to legal actions to clarify issues to be resolved.

NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

One Police Plaza, New York, NY

Assistant Department Advocate

2011 to 2012

Prosecuted members of the service for violations of Departmental rules and regulations. Presented evidence at disciplinary administrative trials, examined witnesses and engaged in oral arguments and conferenced dispositions of cases before the New York City Police Department, Deputy Commissioner of Trials. Researched legal and factual issues related to evidence, administrative law and the Patrol Guide of the New York City Police Department.

LAW OFFICES OF WATTERS AND SVETKEY, LLP.

286 Madison Avenue, New York, NY

Associate Counsel

1999 to 2011

Engaged in the general practice of law with emphasis on criminal defense, contractual relationships, banking and real property matters. Engaged in oral advocacy, analytical research, writing, presentation and courtroom skills. Conducted legal research and analysis. Engaged in contract negotiations and drafted contracts, motions, summons and complaints and other court documents. Managed all phases of criminal trial litigation from arrest through verdict and/or pleadings. Secured lending for and counsel clients on all aspects of residential and commercial real estate transactions.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

Assistant District Attorney

1992 to 1999

Supreme Court Violent Felony Trial Bureau. Managed varied and voluminous felony case load from inception through all stages of trial litigation. Interviewed victims and witnesses and drafted accusatory instruments. Investigated and conducted video and stenographic interrogations. Researched legal issues and engaged in plea negotiations. Presented approximately two hundred felony complaints, including homicides, to the Grand Jury and sought indictments. Prepared and drafted jury instructions, motions, Bills of Particular & Demands to Produce and responded to same. Conducted pre-trial evidentiary hearings, bench trials and jury trials.

EDUCATION

PACE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

White Plains, New York

Juris Doctor, June 1992

Activities: The Pace International Law Review, Case Note and Comment Editor
Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition Team

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Bronx, New York

Bachelor of Arts, Communications Major, May 1989

Honors: Dean's List

OTHER INTERESTS

The Fundamental Techniques of Classic Cuisine - The French Culinary Institute (Published 2007)
Contributing Editor