



# BenchNOTES Newsletter

November 2021

## OATH NEWS

**OATH and DFTA launch Senior Help program:** On October 13, Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge Joni Kletter and New York City Department for the Aging Commissioner Lorraine Cortes-Vasquez addressed a convening of senior center providers to announce the new OATH Senior Help program.

[Read more about OATH News](#)

## COVID-19 Update

Pursuant to an order of the Chief Administrative Law Judge, hearings, trials, and other OATH operations are being conducted by telephone, videoconferencing, online, or mail, and in-person appearances are also available. For more information, visit OATH's website at

[www.nyc.gov/oath](http://www.nyc.gov/oath).

[Read more about COVID-19 update](#)

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## Trials Division

### Personnel

**Officer sent sexually explicit messages to purported underage female.**

ALJ Noel R. Garcia recommended termination of employment for a Department of Homeless Services Special Officer who sent sexually explicit messages to a person who purported to be a 14-year old female and who attempted to meet her to engage in sexual relations.

[\*\*\*Dep't of Social Services \(Dep't of Homeless Services\) v. Castro,\*\*\*](#)

OATH Index No. 1746/21 (Sept. 27, 2021).

[\*\*\*Read more about Dep't of Social Services \(Dep't of Homeless Services\) v. Castro\*\*\*](#)

## **Licensing**

**Suspension of licenses recommended.**

ALJ Astrid B. Gloade recommended the Department of Buildings suspend a licensee's general contractor and construction superintendent licenses for two years.

[\*\*\*Dep't of Buildings v. Xu,\*\*\*](#) OATH Index No. 1179/20 (Sept. 24, 2021).

[\*\*\*Read more about Dep't of Buildings v. Xu\*\*\*](#)

## **Appeals Division decisions (appeals from the Hearings Division)**

**The Appeals Division affirmed a \$1000 fine for non-compliance with Commissioner's COVID-19 order.**

The Appeals Division affirmed a decision finding that an individual had failed to comply with the Health Commissioner's COVID-19 order to

quarantine upon his return from North Carolina to New York City after attending his grandfather's funeral.

[\*\*DOHMH v. Stephon Snell\*\*](#), Appeal No. 2100581 (September 23, 2021)

[\*\*Read more about DOHMH v. Stephon Snell\*\*](#)

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