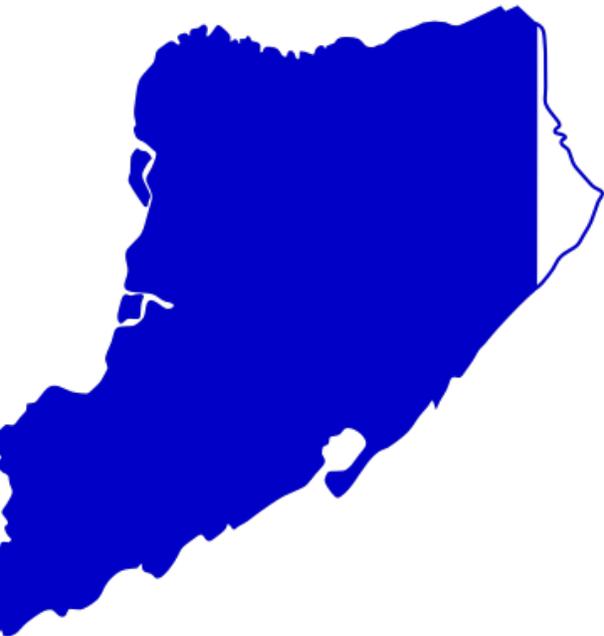


NYC's
INDEPENDENT AND
IMPARTIAL
ADMINISTRATIVE
LAW COURT



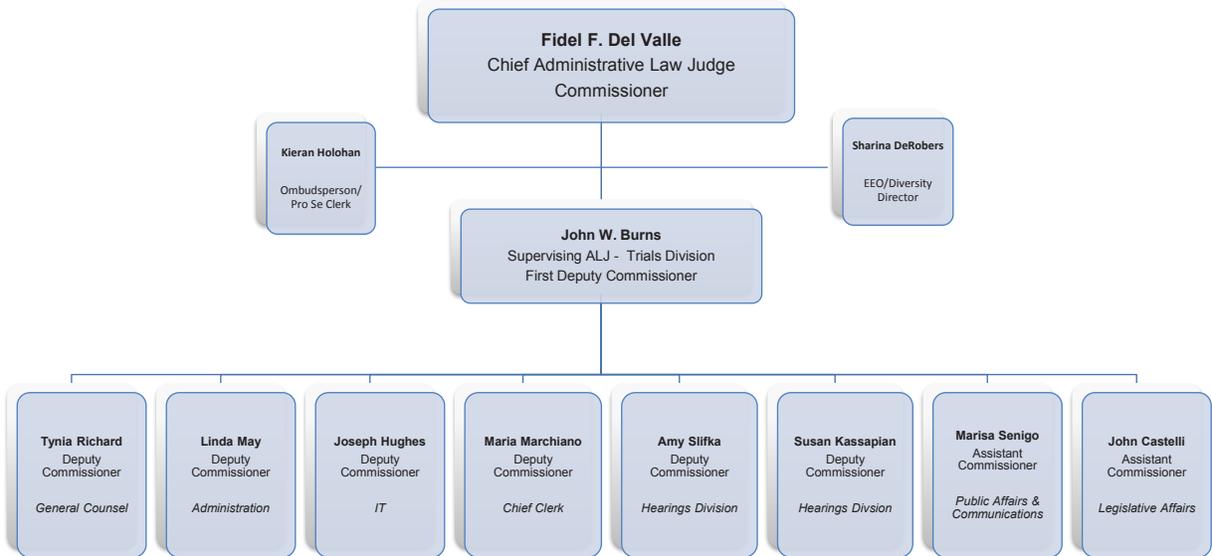
ANNUAL REPORT
2016

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OATH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

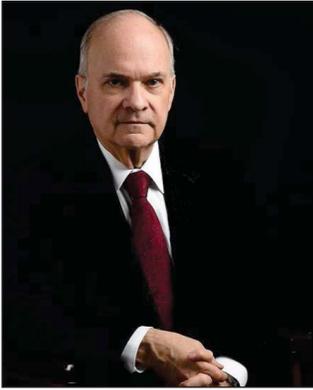




**MESSAGE FROM THE
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
& COMMISSIONER**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ALJ & COMMISSIONER

Fidel F. Del Valle



The Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) is the City's central independent administrative law court. OATH has grown exponentially since it was established by Executive Order No. 32 in 1979. In 1988, OATH was made a Charter Agency with Section 1048 of the Charter providing that OATH "shall conduct adjudicatory hearings for all agencies of the city unless otherwise provided for by executive order, rule, law or pursuant to collective bargaining agreements." At the same time, OATH Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) were given five year terms, one year longer than the Mayor's term. The Charter established OATH as the first central municipal administrative law court in the country to be separate from the agencies that file their cases for hearings or trials, making OATH a truly independent municipal administrative law court. The goal was to move the tribunals which were within administrative agencies to a central, outside, impartial decision-making body with ALJs and hearing officers that are separate and independent of the agencies that issue the charges or summonses on which these proceedings are held. These transfers of adjudications from administrative agencies to OATH have not occurred all at once and historically have taken long periods of time to achieve, but over time OATH's caseloads and case types have gradually grown and OATH will continue evolving in the coming years.

In this report, you will also read about Executive Order No. 18 signed in 2016, which abolished the administrative tribunal at the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). This represents the latest administrative tribunal that was being operated by an enforcement agency that also issued the summonses on which its own in-house tribunal held hearings to be eliminated. The Order mandated that DCA file its cases at OATH. In 2016, the Criminal Justice Reform Act was signed into law; this legislation gives the NYPD the discretion to file certain low-level quality of life summonses at OATH rather than in the Summons Part of Criminal Court. OATH expects to receive an additional 150,000 cases from the NYPD each year as a result of this legislation. This report will also provide an update on our progress on a citywide initiative that OATH began to lead in 2015 which aims to transform the City's administrative justice system by providing New Yorkers with a more streamlined, accessible and convenient court where they can fairly fight summonses issued by City enforcement agencies. For the over 300,000 trials and hearings that OATH currently conducts each year, OATH takes great pride in providing not only fair and impartial, but also convenient and accessible proceedings. I invite you to read about our evolution over the past year as well as learn about our outreach efforts, and our access to justice and procedural justice initiatives in this report.



OATH TRIALS DIVISION

TRIALS DIVISION OVERVIEW

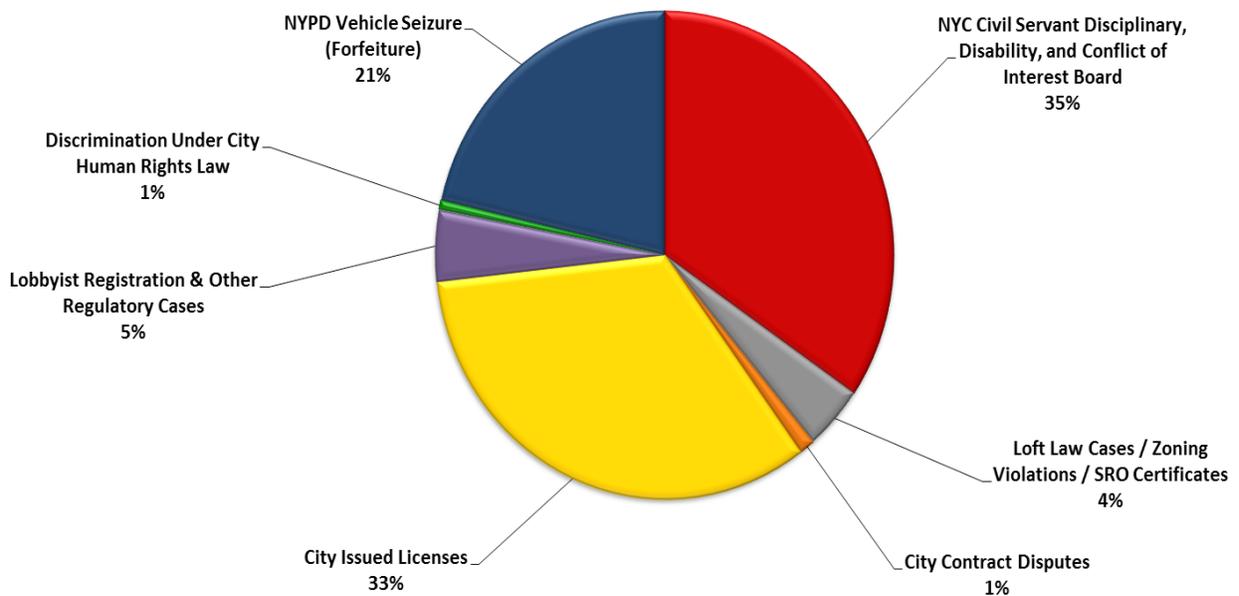


- As set out by the New York City Charter, all of the City's Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) serve at OATH and these ALJs are appointed to five-year terms by OATH's Commissioner & Chief Administrative Law Judge.
- The five-year appointment of the City's ALJs ensures absolute independence and impartiality in the judicial decision-making process since judges serve one year more than the Mayor.
- OATH ALJs are subject to the same rules of conduct and ethics that all members of the New York State Judiciary are bound by (as set forth in 22 N.Y.C.R.R. Section 100). Moreover, all ALJs and OATH Hearing Officers are also subject to the Rules of Conduct for Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers of the City of New York (Appendix - Chapter 48 of the Rules of the City of New York).
- There are currently 12 ALJs serving the City at OATH's Trials Division.

TRIALS DIVISION

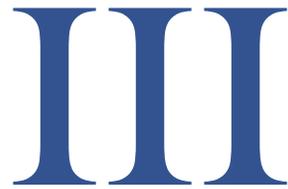
Experienced ALJs preside over trials and settlement conferences at the OATH Trials Division.

Types of Cases Filed by NYC Agencies at the OATH Trials Division in 2016



2016 Overview

- **99.5% of the decisions rendered by OATH ALJs were adopted by the City agencies as the final determination.**
 - **OATH ALJs conducted 1,729 settlement conferences.**
 - **2,611 cases were resolved at the OATH Trials Division.**
-

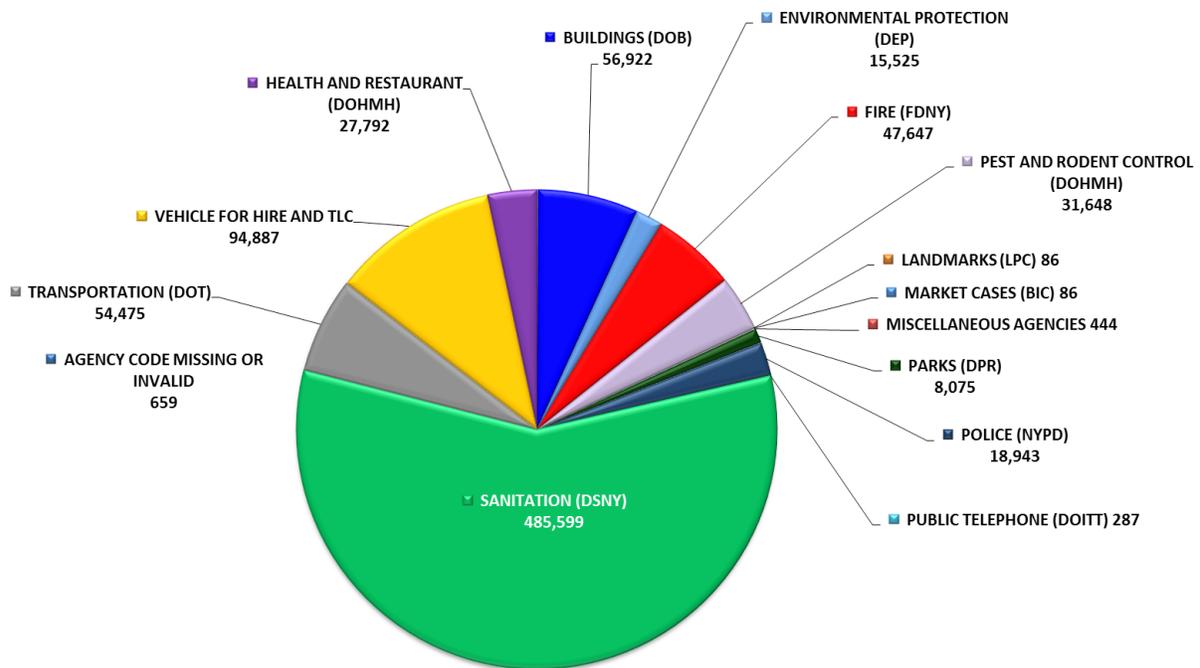


OATH HEARINGS DIVISION

HEARINGS DIVISION OVERVIEW

NYC agencies responsible for enforcing the City's rules, regulations and administrative laws file their summonses at OATH's Hearings Division. OATH Hearing Officers preside over OATH Hearings.

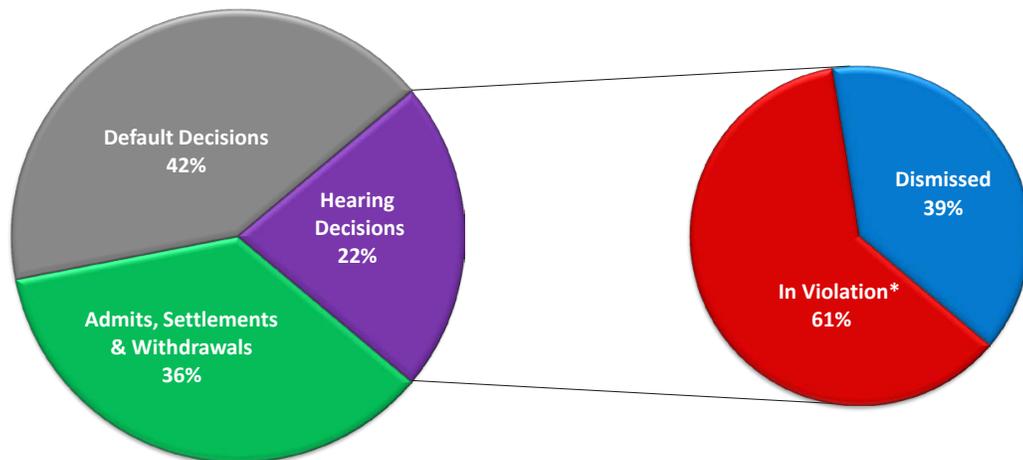
Cases Received by Hearings Division from City Enforcement Agencies
843,075 Summonses Received in 2016



*Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) cases are not included in the 2016 totals represented here.

HEARINGS DIVISION DATA

2016 Outcomes for Summonses Filed with the OATH Hearings Division



**Stipulation agreements that occurred between the issuing agency and a respondent at a hearing are included as In Violation; they are not included in the Admits, Settlements and Withdrawals.*

In 2016, the OATH Hearings Division conducted 279,862 hearings.

ESTABLISHMENT OF FIRST-EVER OFFICE OF THE CLERK

In June 2016, OATH officially established its Office of the Clerk. The establishment of the Clerk's Office makes certain functions that are unrelated to adjudications and the issuing of legal decisions and orders, separate and apart from the Hearings and Trials Divisions.

Clerks in the Clerk's Office are responsible for assisting those respondents who come to OATH for in-person hearings or call OATH with questions about the status of their case or seek information about the options available to them. Clerks also provide the support necessary to ensure that OATH Hearing Officers are equipped to conduct hearings in an efficient, fair and orderly manner.

The Clerk's Office also oversees the Penalty Processing Unit which liaises with the NYC Department of Finance (DOF). DOF is the City agency responsible for collecting monies owed to the City of New York.

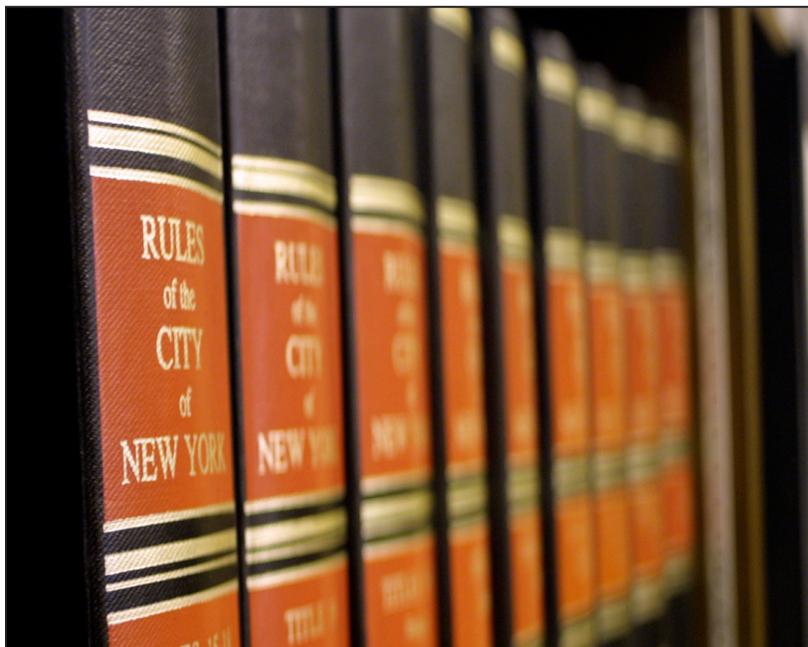
Clerk's Office Duties

- ***Answer questions from public***
 - ***Maintain the OATH call center***
 - ***Manage hearing calendars for all 6 hearing centers***
 - ***Field requests for rescheduling of hearings***
 - ***Check respondents in for hearings***
 - ***Prepare hearing case files***
 - ***Assist with case flow***
 - ***Mail out decisions and other notices***
 - ***Process payments and penalties***
 - ***Process refunds***
-

CREATING FAIRER, MORE EQUITABLE HEARINGS

OATH has implemented new rules of procedure for its Hearings Division. The old rules and procedures were different depending on the type of case that was at issue. Now, all rules and procedures have been streamlined so that all summonses are subject to the same hearing process.

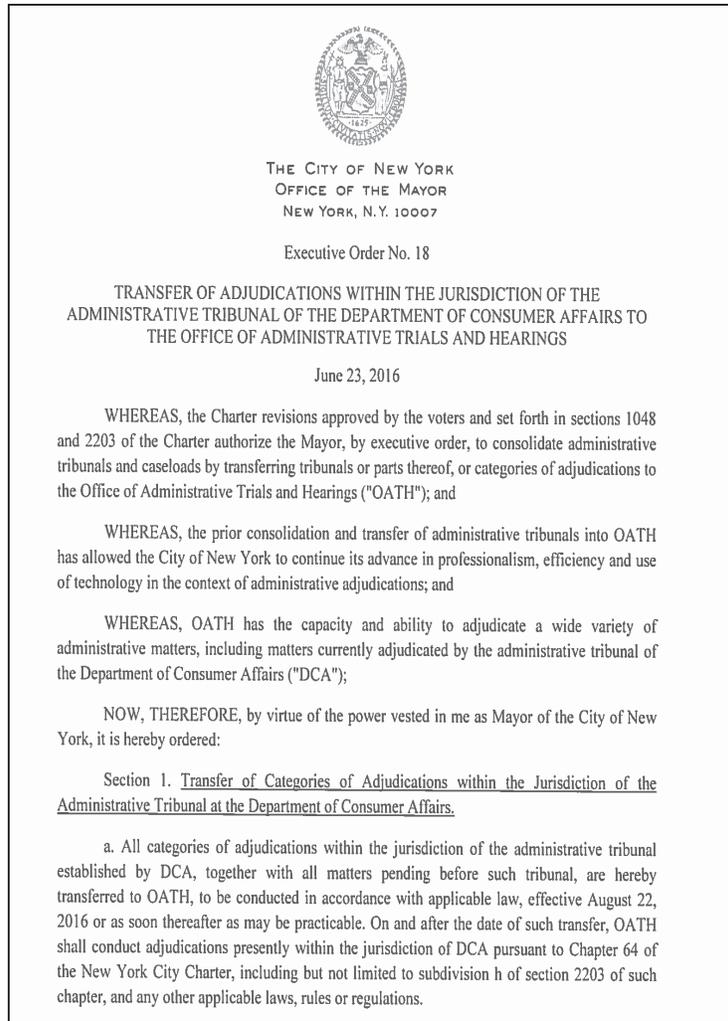
The new rules provide a more level playing field for recipients of summonses at the Hearings Division since the rules now make it clear that the rules apply to the recipient of a summons and to the City enforcement agency that issued the summons.



Having one set of rules and procedures for all summonses filed at OATH means that NYC residents and businesses can deal with summonses issued by any City agency before an independent and impartial administrative court with one uniform procedure. New Yorkers will be able to become familiar with the hearing process and represent themselves more easily now that all hearings are subject to the same rules, procedures and deadlines.

NEW CASE TYPES AND CASE LOADS

On June 23, 2016, Mayor Bill de Blasio signed Executive Order 18 in an effort to increase fairness, impartiality, professionalism and transparency in the hearing process for cases involving Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) charges and DCA-issued summonses. The Executive Order abolished DCA's administrative tribunal and directed DCA to file all of its cases and summonses with OATH.



-
- **DCA now files all of the summonses it issues in relation to its inspections at the OATH Hearings Division.**
 - **Cases involving charges against businesses for alleged violations of the City's Paid Sick Leave Law and Commuter Transit Benefits Law are heard at the OATH Trials Division.**
-

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 2016

In June 2016, Mayor Bill de Blasio signed a package of bills called the Criminal Justice Reform Act. Among other accomplishments, the law gives the NYPD the discretion to file summonses at OATH for low-level offenses such as littering, public drinking, offenses in parks and unreasonable noise. These summonses were previously filed with the NYC Criminal Court and would carry the risk of jail time, warrants, or a criminal record, which could then negatively impact a person's ability to receive government assistance for housing and college.



Mayor Bill de Blasio signs Criminal Justice Reform Act. From left to right: Former NYPD Commissioner William Bratton, OATH Commissioner Fidel Del Valle, OATH First Deputy Commissioner John Burns, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member Jumanee Williams, Mayor Bill de Blasio, and Council Member Vanessa Gibson.

-
- **Starting in June 2017, the NYPD will have the authority to issue administrative summonses filed at OATH, rather than criminal summonses, for certain low-level offenses.**
 - **OATH expects to receive approximately 140,000 additional summonses each year from the NYPD that would have otherwise been filed with the NYC Criminal Court.**
 - **For the first time in OATH's history, OATH has been granted the authority to impose community service, rather than a fine in some of these cases.**
-

IV

ACCESS TO JUSTICE INITIATIVES

MAKING THE HEARING PROCESS MORE CONVENIENT

OATH has made the hearing process more convenient by providing multiple ways to participate in a hearing. OATH's remote hearing methods make it possible to contest summonses without having to appear at a scheduled hearing in person.

OATH's remote hearing options include:

- One-Click (online) Hearings
- Hearings by Mail
- Hearings by Phone
- Hearings by Webcam



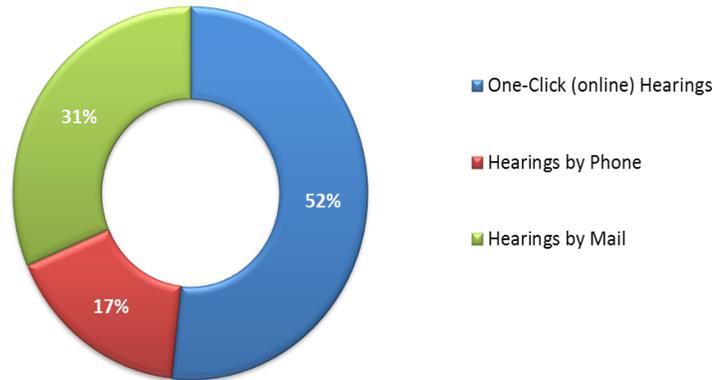
An OATH Hearing Officer conducts a Hearing by Webcam.

2016 Accomplishments

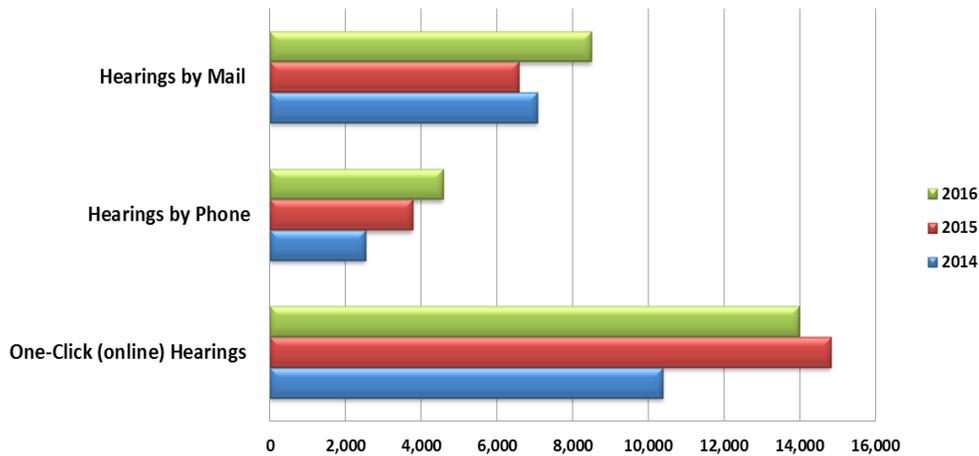
- ***OATH launched a pilot program to test ways to introduce Video (webcam) Hearings for respondents who do not want to appear in person for their scheduled hearing.***
 - ***OATH plans on making Video (webcam) Hearings available to recipients of summonses in 2017.***
-

REMOTE HEARINGS DATA

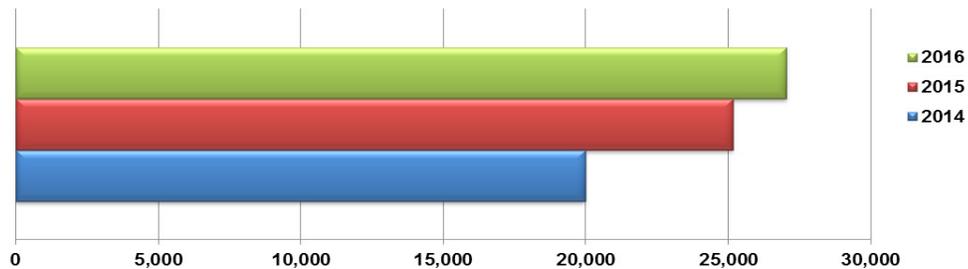
Breakdown of Remote Hearings Conducted in 2016



Breakdown of Remote Hearings Conducted on Annual Basis



Total Remote Hearings Conducted



The number of Remote Hearings conducted by OATH has increased by 35% since 2014.

MAKING THE HEARING PROCESS EASIER TO UNDERSTAND

In 2016, OATH created new outreach materials for recipients of summonses who are interested in learning about the new rules and procedures for hearings, appeals and defaulted cases and how to effectively participate in the hearing process. OATH has made all informational brochures available in nine (9) languages.

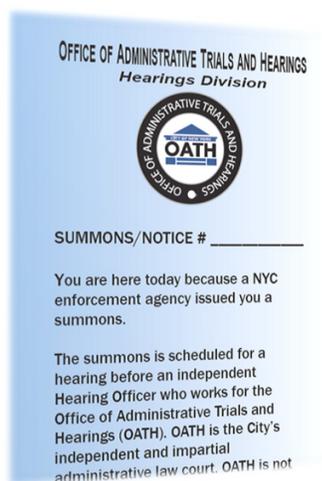
- *What is the OATH Hearings Division*
- *Should I Appeal?*
- *Defaulted Cases: What You Should Know*

 <p>What is the OATH Hearings Division?</p> <p>The NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) is an independent administrative law court that is responsible for conducting trials and hearings on cases brought by New York City's agencies, boards or commissions.</p> <p>The OATH Hearings Division conducts hearings on alleged violations issued by the City's various enforcement agencies, such as the Departments of Buildings, Sanitation, Health, Consumer Affairs and the Taxi and Limousine Commission.</p> <p>Why did I get a Summons or Notice?</p> <p>Your Summons or Notice was issued by a NYC agency responsible for enforcing the law. OATH is an administrative court and does not conduct inspections or issue summonses. If you have questions about why you received the Summons or Notice, contact the City enforcement agency that issued you the Summons or Notice.</p>	 <p>APPEALS UNIT</p> <p>Should I Appeal?</p> <p>Did the Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the facts wrong? • Ignore something presented at the hearing? • Get the meaning of the law wrong? <p><i>If so, you have the right to appeal.</i></p> <p>AN APPEAL IS NOT A NEW HEARING.</p> <p>JUST BEING UNHAPPY ABOUT PAYING THE PENALTY IS NOT A REASON TO APPEAL</p>	 <p>Defaulted Cases: What You Should Know</p> <p>A "default" is a decision that finds you in violation of the charge(s) when you do not respond timely to a Summons or Notice. The default decision will tell you that the legally-mandated default penalty amount has been imposed in your case.</p> <p>How Can I Avoid Getting a Default Decision?</p> <p>There are four (4) ways to avoid a default decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Admit and pay the Summons. Check the Summons or Notice to see if you can admit and pay prior to the hearing. 2. Accept a settlement/stipulation offer. If the enforcement agency has offered you a settlement/stipulation and you do not want to participate in the OATH hearing, you can accept the settlement/stipulation offer by complying with the terms of the offer. 3. Respond to your Summons or Notice online, by phone or by mail. You can contest most charges without appearing for your hearing in person. Read the Summons or Notice carefully or visit the OATH website if you are not sure if you need to respond to the charges in person. 4. Appear for your hearing in person. You must appear at the scheduled hearing location at the time that is listed on your Summons or Notice.
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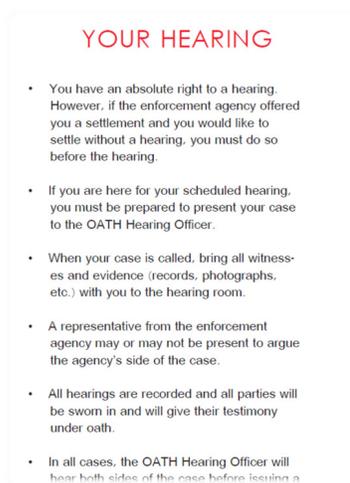
PROCEDURAL JUSTICE

Procedural Justice stands for the belief that not only must the hearing process be fair but that an individual appearing at a hearing understands it to be fair. In order for Procedural Justice to be achieved, there must be fairness and transparency of the processes by which decisions are made. Fairness and transparency are accomplished through a neutral hearing where an individual's voice is effectively heard in a respectful setting after having been afforded a clear opportunity to understand the law and procedure so that they will be able to trust the system.

In order to ensure Procedural Justice at OATH we took a number of steps in 2016. First, we increased our plain language informational presence through a series of palm cards, printed in nine (9) languages, which are given to every respondent at the respondent's first interaction with an OATH employee. These palm cards provide simple basic information to help the respondent feel less intimidated by the process.



Front side of Palm Card



Back side of Palm Card

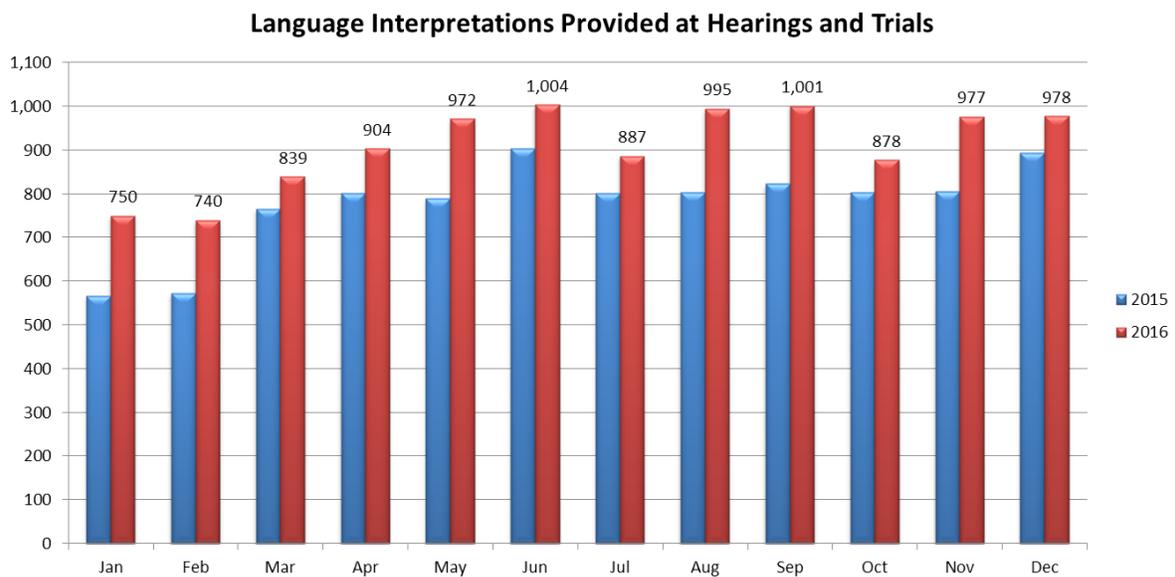
Next, recognizing that more was needed, we began the process of creating Help Centers, run by the Ombudsperson/Pro Se Clerk, at each and every OATH location. The Help Center(s) will provide information to each unrepresented respondent at OATH, as well as online, so that each such respondent understands the allegations they face, the potential penalties, and the specific procedure of a hearing. It should be noted the Help Center's mission is to provide legal information and not legal advice or to provide legal representation.

In addition, to ensure that unrepresented respondents appearing at OATH receive equitable and fair treatment, the Ombudsperson will be responsible for investigating and resolving complaints, creating solutions, identifying and correcting systemic issues, and making recommendations to improve OATH's practices and procedures.

PROVIDING FREE, COMPREHENSIVE LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

FREE, PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETATION SERVICES AT IN-PERSON HEARINGS AND HEARINGS BY PHONE

OATH provides free, professional and impartial over-the-phone translation services at hearings in up to 250 different languages.



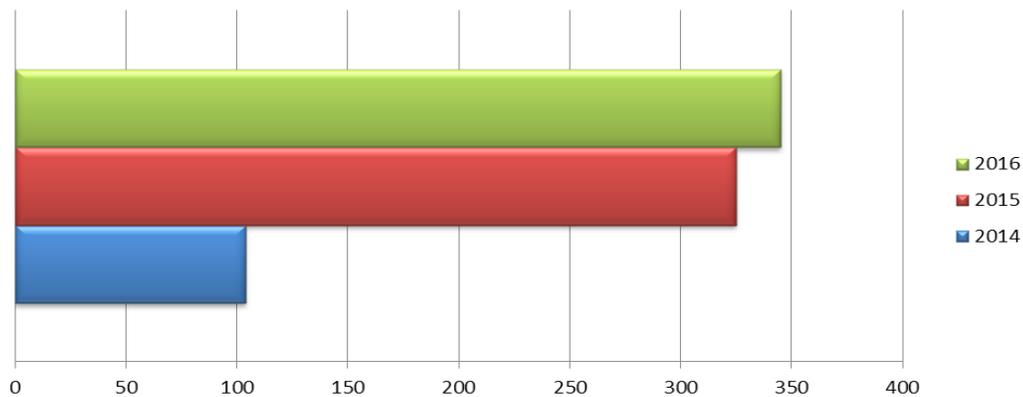
In 2016, OATH provided free interpretation at hearings 10,925 times.

PROVIDING FREE, COMPREHENSIVE LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

FREE, PROFESSIONAL DOCUMENT TRANSLATION FOR FORMS AND WRITTEN DEFENSES

Members of the public can represent themselves to the best of their ability when they are able to make submissions in the language that they feel most comfortable using. OATH publicizes the fact that it accepts documents in any language. OATH translates the submissions into English through a professional translation service at no cost to the public, before it is assigned to a Hearing Officer for consideration.

Total Number of Written Submissions Received in Foreign Languages that OATH Translated for the Public



In 2016, documents submitted to OATH in foreign languages included:

- ***Written defenses for Hearings by Mail***
 - ***Written defenses for One-Click (online) Hearings***
 - ***Requests to vacate default decisions***
 - ***Appeals of OATH hearing decisions***
-

CITY-WIDE ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE REFORM

In 2015, the Mayor's Office tasked OATH with reforming administrative law proceedings in the City of New York consistent with the concepts of impartiality, neutrality and equity. Four main mission targets and goals have been identified by the administration. Once accomplished, this initiative will create a new foundation for the City's administrative justice system in the 21st Century.

ONE SUMMONS

Uniform Summons – The creation of one style of summons to be used by the City's enforcement agencies which has a consistent format regardless of what agency generates the summons and regardless of what law or rule is involved. A uniform summons will ensure that the public will always be able to find the essential information in the same place on any summons they may receive. *2016 Status Update – OATH has created the universal summons and nearly all agencies have adopted it either for their paper or electronically-issued summonses, or both.*

Uniform technology – The development and utilization of summons-writing technology by the City's enforcement agencies includes hand-held electronic devices that can generate a summons in the field and can electronically file the summons with OATH within a matter of hours. *2016 Status Update – OATH continues to work diligently with IT departments at the enforcement agencies to implement the e-filing of summonses with OATH. OATH expects enforcement agencies will begin to make substantial progress on this initiative in 2017.*

ONE HEARING

Uniform OATH Hearings Division – The creation of a single entity charged with hearing any summons issued by any of the City's enforcement agencies in each of the five boroughs. *2016 Status Update – There is now one Hearings Division and there are Hearing Centers in all five boroughs. All OATH Hearing Officers have been cross-trained and are able to conduct hearings on any type of summons.*

ONE PROCESS

Uniform Procedures – The creation and adoption of rules that treat all parties equally. OATH's new rules and procedures will treat all agencies and the public equally. Uniform procedures will result in one set of practices and processes for all summonses, regardless of which regulatory laws are being adjudicated and of which City enforcement agency issues a summons. *2016 Status Update – Through formal rule-making, OATH finalized the creation of its Hearings Division. All summonses and parties appearing before OATH are now subject to the same rules and procedures.*



**THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDICIAL
INSTITUTE (AJI) AT OATH**

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

The City's Administrative Judicial Institute (AJI) is administered by OATH. The Institute was created to serve as a judicial resource center to provide training, continuing education, research and support services for hearing officers, administrative law judges and the attorneys who appear before OATH.



The Institute is an accredited Continuing Legal Education (CLE) provider. In addition to serving as a resource and training center for OATH, the AJI makes its programs available to state and federal hearing officers and administrative law judges. In 2016, outside entities attending AJI programs included:

- NYC Law Department
- NYC Police Department
- NYC Fire Department
- NYC Department of Correction
- NYC Department of Sanitation
- NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission
- NYC Human Resources Administration
- NYC Parking Violations Bureau
- NYC Department of Education
- NYC Housing Authority
- NYC Campaign Finance Board
- NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board
- NYC Commission on Human Rights
- NYC Department of Environmental Protection
- NYC Department of Consumer Affairs
- NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development
- Mayor's Office
- Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice
- Urban Justice Institute
- Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice
- New York Law School
- Social Security Administration
- District Council 37
- NY State Bar Association
- MTA Transit Adjudication Bureau
- NYS Department of Labor
- NYS Department of Motor Vehicles
- NYS Office of Children and Family Services
- NYS Office of Temporary Disability Assistance
- NYS Division of Human Rights
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE INSTITUTE IN 2016

In 2016, OATH programs had 1,423 attendees and an overall satisfaction rate of 95%.

PROGRAMS OPEN TO CITY AND STATE HEARING OFFICERS, ALJs AND LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (WHEN APPLICABLE)

- Chapter 80 Rules
- Making Persuasive Opening Statements
- Effective Expert Examinations On Direct and Cross
- Visual Literacy for Jurists: How Visual Evidence and Visual Storytelling are Changing the Practice of Law in the Digital Age
- Closing Arguments
- How to Become a Judge
- The New Model Rules for OATH's Hearings Division: An Overview
- New York's Problem-Solving Courts: Leaders in Innovation and Change
- New Developments in Practice at the Office of Administrative Trials & Hearings
- Understanding the Dimensions of Human Trafficking: A Primer for Judges and Legal Professionals

CLASSES ADMINISTERED TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES AT THE OATH TRIALS DIVISION

- New ALJ Training – OATH Rules
- New ALJ Training – Conflict of Interest Law
- The Earned Sick Leave Act: What ALJs Need To Know
- City Human Rights Law Cases
- Loft Law
- Prevailing Wage Cases
- Discipline and Disability Cases
- Contract Dispute Resolution Board Cases
- DOB Padlock Cases
- Taxi Cases and License Revocation Cases
- NYPD Vehicle Retention (Krimstock Law) Cases
- SRO Hearings
- Legal Writing
- City Clerk Office and Marriage License Cases

CLASSES PROVIDED TO HEARING OFFICERS AT OATH HEARINGS DIVISIONS

- New Hearing Officer Training: An Eight Day Intensive
- 2016 New Procedural Rules at the OATH Hearings Division
- Introduction to DCA Cases
- Substantive Training for DCA Cases
- Mock Trials for DCA Cases
- Health Code Cross-Training for Hearing Officers
- TLC Rules and Vehicle for Hire Cross-Training for Hearing Officers

VI

**THE CENTER FOR CREATIVE CONFLICT
RESOLUTION (CCCR)**

FREE MEDIATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION SERVICES FOR NYC AGENCIES

In 2015, OATH established the **Center for Creative Conflict Resolution (CCCR)**. The Center's mission is to assist New York City government in resolving conflicts which involve City agencies or City employees — including workplace conflict and inter-agency conflict — and reach resolutions in more satisfying, sustainable, collaborative and cost-effective ways.

Due to its overwhelming success, in 2016 the Center expanded and now has a designated space in lower Manhattan where mediation and trainings occur. This designated space is crucial to the mission of providing confidential, impartial conflict resolution services.



The new office for the Center for Creative Conflict Resolution (CCCR) at OATH is located at 66 John Street, 11th Floor, NY, NY 10038.

The new CCCR office was made possible by leveraging space OATH already controlled and had previously used to conduct hearings. In 2016, OATH consolidated its three hearing subdivisions into what is now the OATH Hearings Division. This merger created operational efficiencies in back office functions and physical space-savings.

SERVICES ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE CENTER



Mediation for City Employees with Workplace Conflicts

In 2016, the Center received 58 mediation referrals and conducted a total of 46 mediations. 38 mediations (83%) resulted in a mutual and voluntary agreement.

Workplace Conflict Consultations

In 2016, the Center provided the following consultation services:

- 37 Conflict Management Sessions involving 13 agencies
- 9 Conflict Coaching Sessions with individuals from 6 agencies
- 4 Dispute System Design Sessions with leadership teams from 4 agencies

Group Processes

In 2016, the Center provided the following group process services:

- 6 Group Facilitations administered to work units or teams at 3 agencies
- 1 Restorative Circle with a group from 1 agency

Training and Education

In 2016, the Center designed and delivered 5 trainings in 2016 involving participants from 11 City agencies. 94% of participants felt that the training overall and the program content were “good” or “excellent.”

Group Facilitation

In 2016, the Center conducted several group facilitation sessions with different work units at some of the various City agencies which have formal partnerships with the Center. Many of the sessions focused on improving team communication and other issues that negatively impacted the units’ work dynamics. Through a series of facilitated conversations and team building exercises, the groups identify ways to enhance the flow of their work protocols and responsibilities and also implement flexible strategies to address any future breakdowns of communication within the teams.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND TRAININGS FROM THE CENTER

In 2016, the Center conducted several special programs and trainings, including:

- A presentation at the NYPD's Annual EEO Conference at One Police Plaza
- A presentation at New York Law School about Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- A one-day Basic Mediator Skills Training for Human Resources and Labor Relations managers at the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS)
- A one-day Mediator Skills Training for FDNY EEO Professionals
- A conflict resolution workshop to members of the Assistant Deputy Warden Pre-Promotional Class at the Department of Correction Academy.
- Two-hour interactive workshop for City agency professionals in celebration of National Mediation Settlement Month.



Assistant Deputy Wardens at the Department of Correction fill out questionnaires while taking part in a training that was administered by OATH's Center for Creative Conflict Resolution.

VII

EDUCATION, MENTORING AND OUTREACH

PARTNERSHIP WITH MAYOR'S OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

OATH partnered with the Mayor's Office of International Affairs to host an event for the City's diplomats and consular officials. Attendees learned about OATH's mission and function within City government, when and how diplomatic immunity can be invoked as a defense to City-issued summonses, and how to fight summonses issued to consulates at OATH hearings.



Commissioner Del Valle speaks to representatives from consulates about OATH's role as the City's administrative law court. The event took place at the Surrogates Courthouse in lower Manhattan.

ACCES PROGRAM

In 2016, OATH launched its **ACCES Program (Administrative Law Court's Community Education Services Program)**. Through the program, OATH partners with various community groups to bring speaking events and informational forums about OATH into communities around the City.



Commissioner Del Valle spoke to an auditorium of more than 1,000 students from the 3 different high schools at the Grand Street Campus in East Williamsburg, Brooklyn. This educational event focused on the changes that will occur when some types of NYPD summonses begin to be filed with OATH rather than with criminal court as a result of the Criminal Justice Reform Act of 2016.



Commissioner Del Valle gave remarks and held a bi-lingual roundtable discussion with Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Diana Reyna, Latino business owners and community leaders in Bushwick, Brooklyn.



OATH partnered with the Chinese-American Panning Council's Youth Services Division and State Assembly Member Felix Ortiz to provide an educational event to young adults in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The event focused on the Criminal Justice Reform Act of 2016 and the intent of that legislation.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR ASPIRING LAWYERS

In 2016, OATH sponsored its 5th Annual “Internship Program” for aspiring lawyers. Program participants handled a variety of tasks in both the Trials and Hearings Divisions, drafting memos and appeals, observing proceedings, and performing extensive legal research. They also participated in mock trials alongside attorneys, hearing officers, and actors. The students had the opportunity to meet with senior leaders in government, including state and federal judges, and learn about legal careers in the public sector. Extra-curricular activities included a visit to Federal Hall, a tour of City Hall, observing closing arguments in a high-profile criminal trial, and attending a local baseball game.



There were 10 law students from as far away as places like Korea and California, to as close as Queens, who participated in the Internship Program. There were also four undergraduate students from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Fordham University who participated in the program in 2016.

Students in the Internship Program were able to attend workshops through OATH’s Administrative Judicial Institute (AJI), including:

- **Managing a Hearing**
 - **Judicial Decision Writing**
 - **Assessing Credibility**
 - **Trial Advocacy**
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EDUCATIONAL EVENTS FOR NYC PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Throughout 2016, OATH hosted several groups of students for “Career Day” visits with judges and other educational programs. High School student visitors typically receive an introduction to OATH, watch parts of a trial at the Trials Division, speak to judges about their career paths, and ask them questions about the law and the legal profession. Middle School students typically have the opportunity to speak to an ALJ before participating in a mock-trial, which is conducted by the judge.



John Burns, Trials Division Supervising Administrative Law Judge and OATH First Deputy Commissioner, talks to high schools students in a court room at the Trials Division about the intent of the Criminal Justice Reform Act and what changes will occur when some types of NYPD summonses begin to be filed with OATH rather than with criminal court.



Volunteer Student Peer Mediators at Curtis High School on Staten Island visit the Conflict Resolution Center at OATH to learn more about mediation techniques and restorative justice practices and how to implement such methods to resolve conflicts that arise between their peers during school.

“The students expressed their delight about being able to learn about OATH and then to speak and hear from actual Judges that hear the cases. The visit to the Conflict Resolution Center was invaluable to what we are trying to achieve at Curtis. Overall it was a great learning experience and fun-filled day.”

- Greg Hutchins, Curtis High School Peer Mediation Coordinator



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