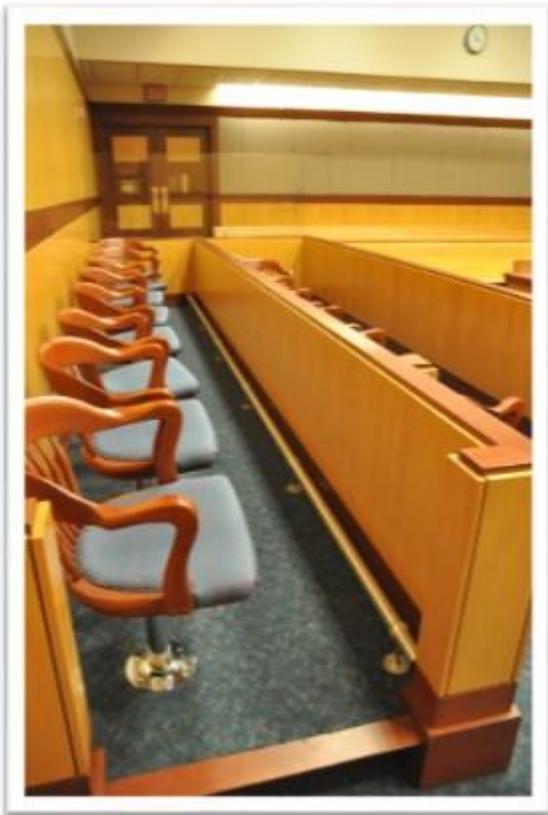


**JURY SELECTION TASK FORCE SCHEDULES FIRST MEETING FOR JULY 14;
FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE ROGERS & SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE OMAR
WILLIAMS WILL CHAIR PANEL**



Former Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers and Superior Court Judge Omar A. Williams will co-chair the [Jury Selection Task Force](#) commissioned by the Connecticut Supreme Court and assigned the task of eradicating racial bias from the jury system.

The first meeting of the task force is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, at 2 p.m. The meeting will be held remotely, via Microsoft Teams, and arrangements will be in place for the public to access the meeting.

The Supreme Court announced that it would convene a jury selection task force late last year in [State v. Evan Jaron Holmes](#). Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson is the appointing authority for all members, whom the court said must include “relevant stakeholders in the criminal justice and civil litigation communities, to study the issue of racial discrimination in juries, to consider measures intended to promote the selection of diverse jury panels, and to propose necessary changes, to be implemented by court rule or legislation, to the jury selection process in Connecticut.”

Work had been underway to schedule the first meeting when the pandemic struck. However, the Branch now has the necessary remote technology in place to hold the meeting, so that all participants will be safe.

“I, along with the associate justices of the Connecticut State Supreme Court, are unanimous in our commitment to eradicate racial bias from our jury system, and we have pledged to work with all partners in the justice system to see this through. Considering the events in Connecticut and across the nation regarding racial injustice, I can think of no better time to get the task force up and running,” Chief Justice Robinson said. “Of course, we do not yet know when jury trials will resume because of the pandemic, and we have been meeting regularly to develop a plan to permit the resumption of jury trials in a safe manner. But that is not a reason to delay the critical work of the task force.”

Judge Williams and Attorney Rogers are perfect choices as co-chairs, the Chief Justice added.

“Judge Williams is an experienced criminal judge who works everyday in the field, and Chase Rogers has an intimate knowledge of the jury selection process through her experience as Chief Justice, an Appellate Court judge and as a trial judge,” Chief Justice Robinson said. “Time is of the essence, but I have full confidence in them as leaders committed to bringing about meaningful and long-term change.”

Both Judge Williams and Attorney Rogers are looking forward to serving.

“I am humbled to have been asked by Chief Justice Robinson to co-chair the Jury Selection Task Force alongside former Chief Justice Chase Rogers,” Judge Williams said. “It is both exciting and daunting to serve in this capacity, and it is an absolute honor to be a part of this incredible team. I am proud to share in the

enthusiastic commitment of the Chief Justice and of the entire task force membership in working toward the achievement of our established objectives, which will enhance the fairness of our jury trials and will increase public trust in our justice system. Access to justice is realized not only in fair outcomes but also through fair processes, procedures, and participation along the way, and I am thrilled to work with and to learn from such an impressive family of stakeholders.”

Attorney Rogers said: “I’m honored to participate in this extremely important effort to ensure a jury selection free of systemic racial bias. It’s a huge undertaking, but its significance and impact are bigger. I look forward to the work ahead.”

For further information, please contact the External Affairs Division at 860-757-2270.

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