

Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission

Bearing the name of a jurist who pioneered advocacy for LGBTQ rights throughout his career, the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission is dedicated to promoting equal participation and access throughout the court system by all persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. In furtherance of that mission, the Commission in 2020:

- Led efforts to educate the judiciary and the public about the provisions of the Child-Parent Security Act before the statute took effect in 2021.
- Produced a virtual LGBTQ Pride Month program in conjunction with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of the Inspector General and the Pride Alliance of the New York Courts. The program came only days after the U.S. Supreme Court issued *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, holding that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 covers discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Drafted and published a joint statement with the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission expressing commitment to a common set of principles toward the “fight for a more equitable court system worthy of our highest ideals.”
- Organized and unveiled a virtual conference focusing on LGBTQ family law in New York and marking the 25th anniversary of the *Matter of Jacob* decision.
- Played key roles in virtual programs for Touro Law Center and Albany Law School exploring, respectively, the *Bostock* decision and the needs of the HIV-positive community.
- Worked with transgender advocates throughout the year to restore access to and streamline procedures for obtaining name changes.



The Failla Commission organized a virtual conference to mark the 25th anniversary of *Matter of Jacob*, where the Court of Appeals held that the same-sex partner of a legal parent may adopt that parent's child.

Managing Inspector General for Bias Matters

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