

FIRST MONDAY IN OCTOBER

29TH ANNUAL GALA & MOCK SUPREME COURT ARGUMENT/ OCTOBER 3, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of the Appellate Defender Will Host 29th Annual *First Monday in October* Gala & Mock Supreme Court Argument
Jim Benjamin and Anthony Ricco to Argue Affirmative Action Case with Kathy Ruemmler Presiding as Chief Justice

On Monday, October 3, 2022, the **Office of the Appellate Defender (OAD)** will host its 29th Annual *First Monday in October* Gala and Mock Supreme Court Argument. One of New York City's oldest providers of appellate representation, OAD is a non-profit law firm and a national leader in effective, innovative, and holistic defense representation. Since its founding in 1988, OAD has produced superb appellate advocacy as well as provided outstanding client-centered representation designed to maximize individual opportunities for success and interrupt the cycles that contribute to mass incarceration. OAD's *First Monday in October* event is an institution within the New York City legal community, widely supported by the private bar, the bench, and others. For a list of *First Monday in October* 2022 sponsors, please see oadnyc.org/first-monday-2022.

This year, **James J. Benjamin, Jr.** and **Anthony L. Ricco** will present arguments in *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*, which asks whether race-sensitive admission practices in higher education institutions violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. They will each receive OAD's prestigious Milton S. Gould Award for Outstanding Oral Advocacy, which is awarded annually to two of the nation's most accomplished legal advocates. **Kathryn Ruemmler** will serve as Chief Justice of the Mock Supreme Court and will receive the OAD Counsel for Justice Award for her exemplary commitment to the public interest throughout her career.

Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz will receive OAD's Gideon Award for its commitment to indigent appellate defense through its longtime participation in OAD's Volunteer Appellate Defender program.

Ezequiel Ochoa, a former OAD client, will receive OAD's Beacon of Hope Award, in recognition of his profound resilience and relentless optimism for the future.

The Associate Justices of the Mock Supreme Court will be **Robert L. Boone** (WilmerHale), **Gabrielle S. Friedman** (Lankler Siffert & Wohl LLP), **Andrew D. Goldstein** (Cooley LLP), **Amanda Kramer** (Covington & Burling LLP), **Joan M. Loughnane** (Sidley Austin LLP), **Daniel L. Stein** (Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP), **Theresa Trzaskoma** (Sher Tremonte LLP), and **Ronald G. White** (Morrison & Foerster LLP).

James J. Benjamin, Jr. is a leader of Akin Gump's white collar defense and global investigations practice group. For more than 20 years, he has successfully guided U.S. and

international clients through investigations and enforcement proceedings arising under the federal securities and commodities laws. He has conducted numerous jury trials and has briefed and argued many cases before federal and state appellate courts. Mr. Benjamin previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York. He has served as a director of the New York Council of Defense Lawyers and the City Bar Fund, and as a member of the Board of Advocates of Human Rights First. He is a former chair of the NYC Bar Association's Task Force on National Security and the Rule of Law.

Anthony L. Ricco, a past President of the New York Criminal Bar Association, specializes in state and federal criminal defense litigation, particularly capital defense litigation. Over the past 28 years, Mr. Ricco has represented over 60 defendants in federal death penalty prosecutions and has tried two federal capital cases to life verdicts. Mr. Ricco is a member of the Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel Project and has served on the faculty of the Bryan R. Schechmeister Death Penalty College at the University of Santa Clara School of Law; as an instructor at the Capital Case Defense Seminar, hosted by the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice and the California Public Defenders Association; and as an Adjunct Professor teaching trial advocacy at the Fordham University School of Law.

Kathryn Ruemmler is Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel of Goldman Sachs. She was previously Global Head of Regulatory Affairs. Prior to joining the firm in 2020, Ms. Ruemmler was a Litigation Partner at Latham & Watkins LLP where she was Global Chair of the White Collar Defense and Investigations practice. Previously, she served as counsel to President Barack H. Obama and was his longest-serving White House counsel. She also served in the Department of Justice, including as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General, Deputy Director of the Enron Task Force, and Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. Ms. Ruemmler also served as Associate Counsel to President William J. Clinton. She is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and serves on the Board of Trustees of the German Marshall Fund.

First Monday in October 2022 will be held **in person on Monday, October 3, 2022, at Tribeca 360°**. All guests will be required to show proof of vaccination at the door. The Cocktail Reception will begin at 6PM and the Program will begin at 7:15PM. To register or donate, visit oadnyc.org/first-monday-2022.

Proceeds from *First Monday in October* support OAD's holistic defense representation. This includes OAD's Client Services Program, which provides parole advocacy as well as assistance and referrals for clients who face challenges to their health and stability during incarceration and reentry; and the Reinvestigation Project, which pioneered an early intervention model for investigating and litigating wrongful conviction cases. For more information about OAD, please visit www.oadnyc.org.

For more information, please contact Caprice Jenerson at 212-402-4110 or cjenerson@oadnyc.org.

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