



Office of the District Court Executive

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN
Chief Judge

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District Court Executive

PRESS ADVISORY
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SDNY BOARD OF JUDGES SELECTS ROBYN F. TARNOFSKY TO SERVE AS MAGISTRATE JUDGE

The Board of Judges of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) has selected Robyn F. Tarnofsky to serve as Magistrate Judge for a term of eight years. Magistrate Judges assist District Court Judges with the work of the Court by facilitating the disposition of certain civil and criminal cases. She will assume the seat previously occupied by Magistrate Judge Gorenstein, who has retired from his position after more than twenty years of distinguished service and has been recalled by the Court as a part-time Magistrate Judge.

Robyn F. Tarnofsky is a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School. Ms. Tarnofsky is the founding director of the NYLAG Legal Clinic for Pro Se Litigants in the SDNY, which provides limited scope assistance to non-incarcerated civil pro se litigants who have cases or are considering bringing cases in the SDNY. Before starting at the clinic, Ms. Tarnofsky was a partner in the litigation department at Paul Weiss, where she spent a substantial amount of time representing sophisticated individuals and financial institutions in connection with internal investigations and investigations by a variety of federal and state regulators. She represented Bank of New York Mellon in connection with several separate investigations by different regulators relating to the rates the bank charged custody clients for foreign exchange transactions. She also represented a senior JPMorgan Chase employee in connection with the investigation by federal regulators into the London Whale scandal.

In addition to her extensive litigation experience, As the founding director of NYLAG, one of the handful of federal pro se clinics in the country, Ms. Tarnofsky has been able to increase access to justice for disadvantaged individuals and help the court deal with the numerous issues raised by cases involving pro se litigants.

“Robyn Tarnofsky’s stellar background, combining expertise in complex litigation and years of collaboration with our court in creative approaches to access to justice for pro se litigants, will enable her to contribute greatly to our court as a Magistrate Judge” said Chief Judge Laura Taylor Swain. “We are delighted to welcome her to the bench.”