

## **Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson of the New York Court of Appeals Named Keynote Speaker at Cardozo's 48th Commencement**

The Hon. Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Judge of the State of New York and the New York Court of Appeals, will deliver the commencement address for the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law commencement ceremony at Lincoln Center on May 31, 2026.

Judge Wilson was nominated by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to serve as an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, and the New York State Senate confirmed his nomination on February 6, 2017. Governor Kathy Hochul nominated Judge Wilson to serve as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York on April 10, 2023. The New York State Senate confirmed his nomination on April 18, 2023. He is the first African American to serve as New York's Chief Judge.

He practiced law as an associate and then partner at Cravath, Swaine & Moore from 1986 until 2017. His practice included antitrust, intellectual property, securities and common-law fraud, and civil rights litigation. While at Cravath, he handled numerous pro bono matters and represented the law firm as a trustee at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Chief Judge Wilson was also the chair of the Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem, which provides legal representation to indigent residents of New York.

Chief Judge Wilson received his A.B. degree from Harvard College in 1981, and his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1984. He was admitted to the bar of the State of California in 1985, and the bar of the State of New York in 1987. From 1984 to 1986, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable James R. Browning, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, based in San Francisco, California.