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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 25, 2022**

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PRESS RELEASE

PRESIDING JUSTICE HECTOR D. LASALLE

NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT

APPELLATE DIVISION, SECOND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

GUEST OF HONOR AT ROCKLAND COUNTY

BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

Hon. Hector D. LaSalle, Presiding Justice of the NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department, was the Guest of Honor at the Rockland County Bar Association's Annual Dinner, held on Thursday, October 20, 2022 at The View on the Hudson, Piermont, New York.

Justice LaSalle addressed an audience of 200 at the Dinner, and spoke on the important role public perception plays in our judicial system, and how that lens affects the judiciary's legitimacy in a time of increasing political polarization and social unrest. He also spoke about the importance of security for our existing judiciary.

Justice LaSalle's message and his judicial perspective should be of interest throughout New York's entire judicial community. The Appellate Division, Second Department is the most populous Appellate Division in New York State, comprising the Counties of Kings, Queens, Richmond, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam and Dutchess.

Also at the Annual Dinner, Hon. William Warren, retired Judge of the Rockland Family Court, received the *Lifetime Achievement Award*. RCBA Board Member Amy M. Mara, Esq. was the recipient of the *Sterns Award*, and David I. Goldstein, Esq., was

awarded the *Joseph G. Balsamo Award* posthumously. Mary Lynn Nicolas-Brewster, Executive Director of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, was the recipient of the Association's *Natalie Couch Award*. Natalie Couch was the first woman to practice law in Rockland County, and she was the first woman to cast a vote in Rockland County in 1918.

The Rockland County Bar Association was founded in 1893 and is still going strong at 129 years old.

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