



News from the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) *The City's Independent and Impartial Administrative Law Court*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Marisa Senigo, OATH

(212) 933-3080

msenigo@oath.nyc.gov

On February 21, 2018 OATH Commissioner and Chief Judge, Fidel F. Del Valle and the Bucks Business Network to Host 3rd “Building Bridges for Small Businesses”

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK – On February 21, 2018, [NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings \(OATH\)](#) Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge Fidel F. Del Valle and Sal Sottile, President of the Bucks Business Network will co-host the third annual *Building Bridges for Small Businesses* breakfast. The event features Commissioner Del Valle speaking about OATH, which is the City's independent administrative law court and where nearly every City agency files summonses for hearings. Commissioner Del Valle will talk about the many different options available at OATH and how small businesses can fight summonses that they receive through OATH hearings.

The educational event will bring together OATH representatives, as well as representatives from the City's various enforcement agencies that issue summonses and alleged violations, to discuss some of the most commonly issued summonses that are issued to Staten Island businesses, how to avoid violating conditions and if summonses are received, how businesses can challenge those summonses at OATH hearings.

“New Yorkers and small businesses deserve a level playing field when contesting City-issued summonses. By bringing together OATH representatives along with representatives from the City's summons-issuing agencies, OATH's *Building Bridges for Small Businesses* initiative provides New York City's small businesses with the information they need to not only participate fully in the OATH hearing process but also to learn how to avoid getting summonses in the first place," said **OATH Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge, Fidel F. Del Valle.**

OATH was able to organize the participation of such City agencies as the Health Department, Fire Department, Sanitation Department, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Buildings and the City Commission on Human Rights, among other agencies that issue summonses or charge businesses with violating City laws and rules.

About OATH

OATH is the independent administrative law court where nearly all City enforcement agencies file their summonses for hearings. The agencies that file summonses at OATH for hearings include the Departments of Sanitation, Buildings, Health, Parks, Environmental Protection, Consumer Affairs, FDNY and NYPD, among many others. Last year, OATH received approximately 850,000 summonses from the City's various enforcement agencies. On average, 40% of summonses that are fought at OATH hearings are dismissed by OATH Hearing Officers.

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Media Advisory

WHO:

- Salvatore Sottile, President of the Bucks Business Network will do introductory remarks
- Fidel F. Del Valle, NYC Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge for the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) will be featured speaker.
- Other agencies will have representatives present to answer questions related to enforcement activities (these include DOB, DSNY, DEP, DOHMH, among others).

WHAT:

3rd Annual Building Bridges for Small Businesses forum and breakfast with Q&A with OATH Commissioner and NYC enforcement agencies to learn how to avoid violating conditions, fight summonses received at OATH hearings and resolve sustained violations.

WHERE:

Hilton Garden Inn, 1100 South Avenue, Staten Island N.Y. 10314

WHEN:

7:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. on Wednesday, February 20, 2018