



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.nyc.gov/oath

**OATH LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE MAKING IT EASIER TO GET
INFORMATION ABOUT CONTESTING VIOLATIONS THAT ARE ISSUED BY
CITY AGENCIES**

On November 8, 2013 the City of New York's Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) launched its new website www.nyc.gov/oath which, for the first time, brings information from all of OATH's tribunals together into one place.

"As the City's central independent administrative court, OATH works to make the hearing process fair, timely and accessible for the New Yorkers who have been summoned to one of its tribunals. New Yorkers deserve a level playing field when contesting City-issued violations. For this reason, OATH continues to work towards the goal of creating a truly user-friendly court and one that empowers self-represented litigants by providing them with simple, clear, understandable information and instructions about the hearing process and the many options available to them," said OATH Commissioner and Chief Judge, Suzanne Beddoe.

The new OATH website has easy to understand, "plain language" pages that— with the use of recognizable, simple icons— clearly inform constituents of the many options made available to them by OATH. A visitor may quickly learn, for example, that OATH provides the option to contest alleged violations online, over the phone or by mail, rather than having to come to a tribunal in-person for a hearing. One may easily learn that appeals and other important forms can be submitted directly to the tribunals using online, electronic applications rather than mail, which saves time and helps ensure that important submission deadlines are met. A visitor to the new site can now view informational videos so that he or she understands what to expect when coming to a hearing in-person, and other legal resources such as informational guides, instructional brochures, hearing calendars and methods to look up case-specific information, is now exceedingly easy to find.

About the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)

OATH, with the authority to conduct administrative hearings on cases that are brought by any City agency, board or commission, serves as the City's central, independent administrative court. OATH is the largest municipal administrative tribunal in the nation, conducting nearly 400,000 hearings annually and is comprised of four separate, independent administrative tribunals which hold hearings on a wide-variety of cases:

- The Environmental Control Board (ECB) holds approximately 200,000 hearings annually on quality of life and public safety charges that are filed by 13 different City

enforcement agencies including the Buildings Department, Fire Department, Sanitation Department and Department of Environmental Protection, among others.

- The OATH Health Tribunal holds hearings on alleged violations of the City Health Code and other charges brought by the City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). The majority of the hearings involve food service establishments.

- The OATH Taxi & Limousine Tribunal holds hearings on potential violations of TLC's rules and regulations, including cases brought against drivers by TLC, NYPD, Port Authority of NY and charges resulting from customer complaints.

- The OATH Tribunal adjudicates a diverse range of matters including civil service disciplinary cases, human rights and discrimination cases, car seizure cases, license revocation cases and complex contractual disputes.

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