

CORONAVIRUS

Brooklyn judge and former City Councilman Noach Dear dies from coronavirus complications

By **NOAH GOLDBERG**
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Brooklyn judge and former City Councilman Noach Dear, has died of coronavirus, family members confirmed to the Daily News Sunday.(Jesse Ward/for New York Daily News)

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Brooklyn judge and former City Councilman Noach Dear, died of coronavirus Sunday, sources confirmed to the Daily News.

Dear, 66, had been sick with COVID-19 for weeks and was on a ventilator and rumors swirled that the judge had died weeks ago though they were dispelled at the time.

The judge served on the New York City Council for more than 20 years.

“Judge Dear had a certain energetic, colorful persona that epitomized the great diversity not only with respect to the Kings County Judiciary but also as a member of our Bar Association and Brooklyn Community at large,” said Brooklyn Bar Association President Frank Carone. “He will be sorely missed.”

Dear was moved up to the Supreme Court in 2010, [after serving in the lower civil courts](#).

Family members confirmed the judge’s death but declined to comment.

A controversial, more conservative member of the City Council, Dear drew ire back in the 1980s for opposing council legislation that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing. The legislation passed over his objections.

He is the second judge at Brooklyn Supreme Court Civil to die of the virus. Judge Johnny Lee Baynes died on March 27.

The coronavirus has taken a particularly rough toll on the Brooklyn court, where the two judges have now died and more than 10 others who passed through the building have been infected.

Lawyers and clerks told The News that [the bustling courthouse should have been shut down earlier](#) to prevent the spread.

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Noah Goldberg

New York Daily News



Noah Goldberg covers Brooklyn supreme and federal courts for the New York Daily News. He previously covered criminal justice for the Brooklyn Eagle.

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