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Jessica Yager Named Executive Director of NYU Furman Center

New York, NY: The NYU Furman Center announced today the appointment of [Jessica Yager](#) as its new Executive Director. She succeeds [Mark A. Willis](#), who agreed to step into the role two years ago in an interim capacity following the departure of Director Vicki Been to the de Blasio administration. Willis will return to research work full time as the NYU Furman Center's Senior Policy Fellow.



Ms. Yager has led the NYU Furman Center's policy work since 2012, first serving as Policy Director and more recently as Deputy Director. She spearheaded the NYU Furman Center's work on building resilience in multifamily housing following Superstorm Sandy. She also led the creation of several of the NYU Furman Center's key policy contributions, including [Housing for an Inclusive New York](#), a series of policy briefs that explored affordable housing policies for high-cost cities, and [10 Issues for New York City's Next Mayor](#), which explored the major housing policies proposed by candidates during the 2013 mayoral campaign.

"Jessica brings both an extremely sharp mind and a deep commitment to urban policy," said NYU Furman Center Faculty Director [Ingrid Gould Ellen](#). "She is also an exceptional manager, and we are delighted that she has agreed to take on this new leadership role."

"We are extremely grateful that Mark has lent us his managerial wisdom and leadership over the past two years," said Ellen, "And we are very happy that he will stay on and lead several important projects."

Prior to joining the NYU Furman Center, Ms. Yager was the founding Director of the Foreclosure Prevention Project at Queens Legal Services, where she supervised a team of lawyers and paralegals working on foreclosure defense and predatory lending cases. She has also worked as a senior staff attorney at the Office of the Appellate Defender; a clinical teaching fellow at the Center for Social Justice at Seton Hall University School of Law; and as a law clerk to the Honorable Napoleon A. Jones, Jr., United States District Court for the Southern District of California. Ms. Yager received a J.D. from NYU School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern Public Interest Scholar, and a B.A. from Wesleyan University.

"It is an honor to lead the NYU Furman Center and support its important mission of advancing research and debate on housing, neighborhoods, and urban policy," said Ms. Yager. "I am excited to support our talented team as we continue to provide rigorous research to inform policymaking."

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About the NYU Furman Center

The NYU Furman Center advances research and debate on housing, neighborhoods, and urban policy. Established in 1995, it is a joint center of the New York University School of Law and the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. More information can be found at furmancenter.org and [@FurmanCenterNYU](https://twitter.com/FurmanCenterNYU).