



# PRESS RELEASE

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Lawrence K. Marks  
Chief Administrative Judge**

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## **Chief Judge Proposes Constitutional Reforms to Simplify Outdated Court Structure, Aiming to Enhance Access, Optimize Resources**

**NEW YORK**—Chief Judge Janet DiFiore today proposed amendments to the State Constitution that would eliminate New York’s complex maze of 11 separate trial courts and replace it with a simplified three-level structure to make the courts easier to navigate, increase operational efficiency and reduce costs to litigants, among other potential benefits.

The New York State court system is among the largest in the world—with over 1350 State-paid judges and some 15,000 non-judicial court employees. These courts deal with an average of more than three million new cases filed each year, imposing enormous demands upon the New York Judiciary to deliver timely and effective justice. Additionally, there are over 1800 judges serving in New York’s locally funded Town and Village Justice Courts.

Even with these massive caseloads, New York’s state trial court system has the country’s most cumbersome trial court structure, frequently rendering it difficult to assign judicial and non-judicial resources to where they are most needed. No other state has as many separate trial courts. While the Chief Judge’s Excellence Initiative has served to dramatically improve the delivery of justice in New York, the court system’s outmoded, fragmented and needlessly complex organizational structure continues to pose obstacles to justice for judges, lawyers and litigants alike.

For example, if a child custody or support dispute in Family Court results in the parties wanting a divorce, the divorce proceeding must now be heard before a different judge in the Supreme Court—forcing the parties to re-arrange their work and other schedules multiple times in order to make numerous appearances in different courts and raising the possibility of inconsistent decisions. This adversely affects all litigants, especially those of limited means, since they are not able to rely on their appointed counsel from Family Court in the Supreme Court, where the right of counsel in a divorce action is generally limited to custody and contempt issues. Further, a new application for assignment of counsel must be made in the Supreme Court, with no guarantee that counsel from the Family Court will be assigned, leading to additional delay while new attorneys familiarize themselves with the matter. Similarly, a car accident victim on a State highway must bring separate damage claims in the Court of Claims (against the State), where there is no right to a jury trial, and in the Supreme Court (against the driver of the other vehicle), where there is a right to a jury trial.

These are just two of the procedural hurdles that arise from the current antiquated structure. Seeking to eliminate such obstacles, and building on past court merger proposals, the Chief Judge's proposal offers a blueprint for a modern judicial system fully capable of delivering efficient, affordable and high-quality services.

Key elements include:

- Consolidation of New York's 11 different trial courts into a simple three-level structure consisting of a Supreme Court, a Municipal Court, and Justice Courts serving New York's towns and villages.
- Abolition of the Court of Claims, the County Courts (which operate outside New York City), the Family Courts and the Surrogate's Courts, and merger of their judges and jurisdiction into the current Supreme Court. More than eliminating a confusing array of courts, this merged Supreme Court will lead to greater diversity on both the Supreme Court and the Appellate Division bench.
- Creation within the merged Supreme Court of six divisions: Family; Probate; Criminal; State Claims; Commercial; and General.

- Abolition of New York City’s Civil and Criminal Courts, Long Island’s District Courts, and the 61 City Courts outside New York City, along with merger of their judges and jurisdiction into a new Municipal Court in those jurisdictions.
- Designation of New York City’s Housing Court Judges as Municipal Court Judges, to be appointed by the Mayor to ten-year terms.
- Preservation of the current means of selection and terms of office for all judges of courts abolished and merged into Supreme Court and Municipal Court, respectively (merger-in-place).
- Elimination of the century-old constitutional cap (of one judge per 50,000 residents in a Judicial District) on the number of Supreme Court judgeships that can be established by the Legislature.
- Authorizing the Legislature to change the number of Appellate Division Departments once every ten years to best meet New York’s appellate justice needs.
- Provision for a five-year phase-in period to allow for any statutory, regulatory, administrative or other changes that would be needed to accommodate the new organizational structure.

To take effect, the Chief Judge’s proposal must be passed by the Legislature during its 2020 session, passed again during its 2021 session, and then approved by the State’s voters at the November 2021 general election.

“We are long overdue to amend our State Constitution to create a streamlined trial court system, a structure organized in a manner that most effectively and efficiently addresses the modern-day justice needs of New Yorkers. I am heartened by the strong support for court consolidation from so many organizations and individuals across the State—including the State Bar Association, the New York City Partnership and scores of community groups ranging from the League of Women Voters to Sanctuary for Families to leading lawyers from government, the private bar and general counsel offices. I look forward, as we work with the Legislature and Governor, to the passage of these important constitutional reforms, which can then be presented to the voters on the 2021 ballot for their approval,” said Chief Judge DiFiore.

“Having taken form in the middle of the last century, New York’s byzantine trial court structure is today ill-suited to meet the needs of a modern court system. Its multiplicity of courts, along with their jurisdictional and procedural diversity, pose major challenges to all those who look to our justice system to resolve their legal disputes, particularly New York’s unrepresented litigants. These proposed constitutional amendments will lead to critically needed changes in our State Constitution that will make New York’s courts more user-friendly and improve the quality of justice statewide,” said Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks.

“The New York State Bar Association wholeheartedly supports Chief Judge DiFiore’s efforts to reorganize and modernize New York’s Byzantine court system. For 40 years the State Bar has advocated for streamlining the State’s costly, overly complex and inefficient court structure, with an eye toward improving access to justice for all. We applaud the Chief Judge’s leadership on this vitally important initiative,” said Hank Greenberg, President of the New York State Bar Association and a partner at the law firm Greenberg Traurig.

“District Attorneys support any proposals that will make the court system easier to navigate for all citizens of New York State. The Chief Judge’s proposal does exactly that, and we urge the Legislature to give it very serious consideration,” said David M. Hoovler, President, District Attorneys Association of New York.

“The City’s business community has been increasingly frustrated with delays and structural inefficiency in the court system, which are issues that the reforms proposed by the Chief Judge address. We urge the adoption of these reforms as promptly as possible so that the long overdue streamlining of the courts can begin,” said Kathryn Wylde, President and CEO, Partnership for New York City.

“In the 25 years I served on the bench in the New York State court system, I observed, firsthand, the striking inefficiencies stemming from this State’s multiplicity of courts. In the six years I have served as Executive Director of Sanctuary for Families, I have seen the catastrophic consequences this system creates for vulnerable victims. The consolidation plan proposed by the Chief Judge is a major step forward to resolving this problem and will enable all litigants, particularly families in crisis, to have prompt, fair and less expensive access to justice,” said Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Executive Director, Sanctuary for Families.

Following are additional statements of support from 38 other legal, business and community leaders and a list of more than 100 organizations from across the State supporting trial court consolidation. Please see attachment for a summary and the full text of the proposal.

## STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF COURT SIMPLIFICATION PROPOSAL

### Chairs of Business Groups, Bar Associations and Law School Deans

#### Matthew Diller, Dean of Fordham Law School

"The New York Court system is a labyrinth of jurisdictional traps and complexities. Its structure is a significant barrier to achieving access to justice. The Chief Judge's court modernization proposal is an important step in leveling the playing field for all New Yorkers."

#### Kevin S. Law, President and CEO, Long Island Association

"The Long Island Association supports modernizing and streamlining the New York State court system to make it more efficient for all New Yorkers, and thus we commend the Chief Judge as she takes on this important initiative."

#### Roger Maldonado, President, NYC Bar Association, and Partner, Smith, Gambrell & Russell

"The City Bar has long supported proposals to consolidate the State's major trial courts, in the firm belief that a truly unified court system will be more efficient and will result in justice that is more equitable, swifter and less expensive than that which is dispensed via the current patchwork of courts. We see consolidation as an absolutely essential reform for the benefit of both the court system and the public. It will eliminate confusion and waste and create a more nimble and user-friendly system. The City Bar applauds the Chief Judge for her leadership on this important issue."

#### Amelia T.R. Starr, Chair, Fund and Committee for Modern Courts, and Partner, Davis Polk

"Modern Courts strongly supports the Chief Judge's proposal because New York must have a court system that is accessible, navigable and trusted by all New Yorkers—a court system rational in its design, equitable in its distribution of resources, accessible to those with or without counsel, and responsive to everyone, regardless of the specific issue, judge, courthouse or litigant seeking justice."

### Community Organization Representatives

#### Amy Barasch, Executive Director, Her Justice

"At Her Justice, we work with women living in poverty whose future is often regulated by the civil courts. Many of our clients need an interpreter to access the courts, 80% are survivors of intimate partner violence and 73% are mothers. Our court system is so confusing and onerous to navigate that many of our clients have opted out of the court system by the time we meet them. Simplifying the New York State court system would ensure that its structure is not a barrier to access, and would go a long way to ensuring that all New Yorkers can get access to the essentials of life."

#### Greg Berman, Executive Director, Center for Court Innovation

"The structure of New York's court system often seems designed to confuse and frustrate the people who come to the courts seeking justice. Simplifying the system is the quintessential good government initiative. If successful, it has the potential to improve both efficiency and effectiveness. Most important, court simplification can improve public understanding and confidence in the justice system, demonstrating to the people of New York that the court system takes their concerns seriously. For these reasons, the Center for Court Innovation supports Chief Judge Janet DiFiore's proposal to modernize New York's courts."

Laura Bierman, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of New York State

"The League of Women Voters has long supported simplifying the New York State court system. Simplifying the court system will support a healthy democracy and strengthen our system of government. The League is proud to support the Chief Judge for her leadership on this important issue."

Kristin Brown, President and CEO, Empire Justice Center

"Empire Justice Center's mission is to protect and strengthen the legal rights of people in New York who are poor, disabled or disenfranchised. We believe a simplified court structure is essential in providing greater equity, responsiveness and accessibility for all New Yorkers. We appreciate that Chief Judge Janet DiFiore recognizes this need and is taking steps toward simplification."

Cathy A. Cramer, CEO, Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)

"The pro se litigants LIFT works with have a hard enough time navigating one court, but when they have to go to multiple courts to resolve their issues, challenges seem completely overwhelming and often insurmountable. The simplification of the court process would mitigate some of those challenges for litigants and help them to proceed with their cases in a more streamlined manner."

Karen Freedman, Executive Director, Lawyers for Children

"We are committed to working with the Chief Judge and our advocacy partners to develop and implement a plan that best serves children and families who are entangled in the New York court system. Children and families desperately searching for justice to address issues of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, custody, visitation, guardianship, adoption, foster care, and child support deserve a better system."

Beth Goldman, President and Attorney in Charge, New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)

"At NYLAG, we protect and advance the rights of individuals and families with low incomes who face legal challenges that threaten their economic stability and safety. It is in the best interest of our attorneys and clients to have a court system that is streamlined and comprehensible. The structure of the court system should not keep our clients from accessing justice. We applaud the Chief Judge's leadership on court modernization and look forward to working to ensure a court system that will enhance access to the justice system."

Heidi Lee Henderson, Executive Director, Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project

"The Chief Judge's leadership on court modernization is the best way to ensure that the great strides in access to justice in the New York courts continue. The Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteers Lawyers Project has been committed to the premise that no New Yorker should be denied access to justice because of poverty, and that the private bar can provide a powerful force to ensure equal access through its pro bono efforts. Through simplification of the judicial system, our pro bono attorneys will be better equipped to assist Brooklynites in need of representation and, as a result, positively impact the lives of those who are often overlooked and underserved."

Susan Lerner, Executive Director, Common Cause New York

"Common Cause New York believes that we must do all we can to strengthen the institutions of government, and fully utilize state and local government as bulwarks in protecting and expanding our democracy and the rights and liberties of all. An independent and effective judicial branch is essential to our system of government. Simplifying New York's chaotic and outdated state court system is long past due."

Thomas Maligno, Executive Director, William Randolph Hearst Public Advocacy Center, and Director of Pro Bono and Public Service

"As a public interest lawyer on Long Island for over 40 years I have observed access to justice be severely impeded by the difficulty indigent clients face when attempting to navigate a confusing court structure."

Connie Neal, Executive Director, New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

"At the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence, we work to prevent and confront all forms of domestic violence. Our member organizations serve survivors of domestic violence in communities across the entire State. Changing our culture into one that doesn't condone violence requires that we advocate for policies across all branches of government. Court simplification would end many practices that negatively impact survivors, including multiple court appearances in multiple courts for inter-related issues and having to retell the story of the violence they experienced, again and again. By championing court simplification, Judge DiFiore continues her strong support for survivors of domestic violence, honors their right to be safe and creates new foundations for healing."

Stacey Neumann, Director of Legal Services, Hope's Door

"Hope's Door of Westchester County provides services to survivors of abuse, many of whom face barriers because of cultural and language differences. Our Legal Center helps victims seeking orders of protection, pursuing divorces, establishing custody and fighting for child support, among other civil legal needs. By supporting court simplification, Chief Judge DiFiore is continuing to address the issues that often, because of the court's structure, are obstacles for our clients. We support this initiative."

Carla M. Palumbo, President and CEO, Legal Aid Society of Rochester, NY

"As providers of legal representation to low-income people in Monroe County, we work diligently every day to create an environment in our community that values dignity, equality and fairness. Access to justice is of key importance to the people we represent, and simplification of the court system will go a long way to accomplish that. We proudly welcome Judge DiFiore's leadership on this essential and timely issue."

Andrea Panjwani, Legal Director, Center for Safety and Change

"The vision of the Center for Safety and Change is to help create a society in which all individuals can live with dignity and equality, free from fear, violence and oppression. A significant part of our work is representing victims of violence in our state courts, to keep them safe and permit them to live without violence. Chief Judge DiFiore's bold step to modernize and streamline the NYS court system's structure is very important for our organization and the survivors we serve. Any time a structure creates undue burdens for no rational reason, or multiple court visits because resources are overloaded, our community is harmed. Creating a simplified court system is an essential element in today's world as a better way to allow safety and protection of those who have endured violence in their day-to-day lives."

Hon. Ronald Richter, CEO, JCCA (formerly Jewish Child Care Association)

"Dedicating my professional life to the legal rights of families and children has taught me that without a structurally sound court system and a fair distribution of resources, New York cannot fulfill its basic duty to protect families. There is no justification for continuing to normalize the current system. A simplified court structure has the potential to change lives, with better justice for all who navigate it. JCCA supports the Chief Judge's initiative to modernize our courts."



Rachel Tzamorotas, General Counsel and Assistant Executive Director of Operations, Forestdale

“As a foster care agency, we see all too often families burdened by having to appear in multiple court venues, being represented by different lawyers on each case and trying to abide by multiple, often conflicting court orders. A simplified system would significantly help families trying to navigate the child welfare system.”

Jeanette Zelhof, Executive Director, Mobilization for Justice, Inc.

“Our mission is to achieve social justice, prioritizing the needs of people who are low-income, disenfranchised or have disabilities. We thank Chief Judge DiFiore for her leadership on court simplification, an essential reform to our court system.”

## **General Counsels of NY Companies**

Peter J. Beshar, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

“Chief Judge DiFiore is, once again, out front in proposing sound, and sorely needed, reforms to our state judicial system.”

Eve Burton, Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, Hearst Corporation

“Having been a member of the Commission on the Future of the State Courts and Chief Legal Officer of the Hearst Corporation, which includes being in charge of litigation brought by and against the Company, I know all too well that the complex, under-resourced structure of the New York court system adversely affects New York businesses, and particularly families in crises and other vulnerable populations. The Chief Judge’s wise and practical court modernization proposal, which will remove artificial jurisdictional lines, is a significant step forward in eliminating burden and confusion for all who enter the court system.”

Beth Essig, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Mount Sinai Health System, and Founder, the Mount Sinai Medical Legal Partnership

“As someone who has spent most of her professional life representing hospitals and other medical institutions, I know firsthand that the New York State court system is not only confusing and challenging to navigate but unfit to handle a modern caseload. The result is an inefficient court system that restricts everyday New Yorkers’ access to justice. I believe that the Chief Judge’s proposal will benefit individual litigants and businesses by eliminating the burden and confusion associated with so many courts of limited jurisdiction and reducing administrative costs. The time is now to support Chief Judge DiFiore’s proposal and transform our court system to one that our citizens deserve.”

Sara Moss, Vice Chair and General Counsel, The Estee Lauder Companies

“The Chief Judge’s modernization proposal addresses an issue of vital importance to all New Yorkers. The proposed amendment to the New York State Constitution will make our court system more equitable and efficient for individuals and businesses alike. I urge the legislature to approve Chief Judge DiFiore’s initiative on this critical issue.”

Karen Seymour, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Goldman Sachs; former partner, Sullivan & Cromwell; and former Chief of the Criminal Division, United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of NY

“Chief Judge DiFiore’s court reform proposal addresses the significant challenges that have plagued our State’s court system for years and are a major impediment to equal access to justice. The implementation of the proposed trial court system will make our court system more approachable to litigants and improve the administration of justice. The need to bring meaningful change to our state court system to benefit all New Yorkers, which the proposal will effect, is long overdue.”

## **Legal Community Leaders in the Private and Public Sectors**

### Michael A. Cardozo, Partner, Proskauer Rose and former New York City Corporation Counsel and New York City Bar Association President

“As the former Corporation Counsel of New York City (2002-2013), I oversaw the more than 150 cases a week brought by and against the City and observed firsthand the court system’s inefficiencies and the harm to all litigants resulting from New York’s fractured court structure. I strongly endorse the Chief Judge’s court modernization proposal, which represents a giant step forward that, if enacted, will enable New York courts to efficiently deal with the volume of cases in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

### Richard Davis, former Chair, Citizen Union, and former partner, Weil, Gotshal & Manges

“I strongly support Chief Judge DiFiore’s proposal to modernize New York’s state court system. For too long, the court system has been both confusing and an impediment to everyday New Yorkers’ access to justice. The present court structure creates needless confusion, redundant proceedings and unnecessarily high litigation costs. The proposed trial court system will create a more efficient, effective and unified system—allowing a single judge to preside over all related claims in a given case—and is important to ensuring the public’s confidence in the judicial system.”

### Carey Dunne, General Counsel, Manhattan District Attorney’s Office; former president of the New York City Bar Association and former chair of the Litigation Department, Davis Polk

“As detailed in the report of former Chief Judge Kaye’s Special Commission on the Future of the New York Courts, which I chaired, New York’s court structure has not been updated since the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is not suited to handle the demands of the modern caseload. The result is an inefficient system that is not only wasteful but also imposes tremendous burdens on individuals and businesses. I applaud Chief Judge DiFiore for taking the initiative to tackle this issue and wholeheartedly support the proposed reforms.”

### John Gross, Sr. Managing Partner, Ingerman Smith, L.L.P.

“As managing partner of a major Long Island law firm and past president of the NYS Bar Association Foundation, issues of access to justice are among my primary concerns. The proposed reforms directly address these issues and will make the court system more streamlined and accessible, eliminating the needless confusion created by the current byzantine structure of New York’s courts. The Chief Judge’s proposal is long needed and if adopted will go a long way towards opening the doors of justice to all New Yorkers.”

### Robert L. Haig, Sr. Litigation Partner, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP

“The importance of maintaining a first-rate court system in New York State cannot be overstated. The current overburdened system, riddled with delays and inefficiencies, has no place in our great State, the pre-eminent financial and commercial capital of the world. The Chief Judge’s proposal will allow the court system to better allocate its scarce resources and enable it to better administer justice to all New Yorkers.”

### Stephen Helmer, Partner, Mackenzie Hughes (Syracuse)

“In my 36 years litigating cases in the New York courts, I have seen over and over again the confusion and expense all litigants suffer as a result of the multiplicity of courts in this State and the lack of clarity as to where a dispute should be litigated. The New York State court system cannot serve only those citizens with the means to navigate its complicated and ineffective inner workings. The Chief Judge’s proposal is an important step in leveling the playing field for all New Yorkers by providing equal access to justice and stymying inequality. I urge that it be adopted as quickly as possible.”

Brad Karp, Chair, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

“Chief Judge DiFiore’s proposed constitutional amendment marks an important step in the crucial fight—in which I have participated my entire professional life—for justice. The New York State court system, designed to preserve our most sacred liberties and rights, has functioned for too long under a complicated structure with insufficient resources. The Chief Judge’s proposal, which creates a more approachable and streamlined court system, will vastly improve the administration of justice for all New York citizens.”

John Kiernan, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton, and former president, New York City Bar Association

“As a longtime New York litigator and supporter of initiatives to improve the efficiency and reduce the costs, delays and other burdens of the dispute resolution process, I strongly support the proposed court simplification amendments to our State Constitution. These amendments should enhance efficiency, improve access to justice for all and reduce avoidable costs in the justice system.”

Hon. Howard Levine, Senior Counsel, Whitman Osterman & Hanna, and former New York Court of Appeals Associate Judge, State Supreme Court Justice and Family Court Judge

“In the 32 years I served as a Judge in this State—starting as a judge of the Family Court and culminating in my nine-plus years on the New York Court of Appeals—I continuously observed the inefficiencies of the New York court structure. Throughout my extensive experience within the justice system, on both sides of the bench, I’ve advocated for court consolidation to deal with these inefficiencies and increase access to justice for all New Yorkers. I offer my full and unwavering support for the Chief Judge’s initiative.”

Martin Lipton, Founding Partner, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

“I am pleased to support the Chief Judge’s visionary proposal to modernize our court system for the benefit of all New Yorkers. The vitality of the New York Judiciary is critical to our State retaining its role as the pre-eminent financial and commercial center of the world, and we must ensure that we have high-quality, efficient courts that protect the rule of law and equal access to justice for all citizens. I am confident that these proposed reforms will help to ensure that the citizens of our State have a first-rate court system.”

Jared Lusk, Managing Partner, Nixon Peabody (Rochester Office)

“In my experience litigating cases in the New York courts I have seen first-hand the confusion and resulting harm to all litigants stemming from the complex structure of the New York trial courts. The time is long overdue for the system to be simplified. The Chief Judge’s proposal is a major step forward to allow the New York courts to deal effectively with the 21<sup>st</sup> century demands on the courts and provide equal access to justice for all New Yorkers.”

Gary Naftalis, Co-Chair, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel

“New York’s court system is confusing, complex, costly and inefficient. The reforms contained in Chief Judge DiFiore’s proposal address these issues head on and will deliver the change that New Yorkers deserve. I am thrilled to support the Chief Judge in this reform effort.”

## **Simplify the Courts Coalition**

*A growing coalition of organizations who support a court system that is accessible, navigable and trusted by all New Yorkers.*

Anti-Violence Project New York City (AVP)  
Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer Project  
Buffalo/Niagara League of Women Voters  
Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project  
CASA-NYC  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany  
Center for Community Alternatives, Inc., New York City, Syracuse and Rochester  
Center for Court Innovation  
Center for Elder Law and Justice, Erie County  
Center for Safety and Change, Rockland County  
Children's Aid  
Children's Defense Fund, NY  
Citizens Union  
Citizens' Committee for Children  
Common Cause New York  
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies  
Crime Victims Treatment Center  
Day One  
Empire Justice Center  
Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island (ECLI)  
Erie County Bar Association (ECBA) Volunteer Lawyers Project  
Family Services Society of Yonkers  
FamilyKind  
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies  
Fines and Fees Justice Center  
Footsteps  
Forestdale  
Good Shepherd Services  
Grace Smith House, Inc.  
Graham Windham  
HeartShare St. Vincent's Services  
Her Justice  
Hope's Door  
Human Services Council  
Immigrant Justice Corp  
JCCA (formerly known as Jewish Child Care Association)  
LawHelpNY  
Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence  
Lawyers for Children, Inc.  
League of Women Voters NYC  
League of Women Voters of New York State  
League of Women Voters of the Syracuse Metropolitan Area  
LGBT Bar Association of New York  
LIFT (Legal Information for Families Today)  
Long Island Association  
Long Island Housing Services, Inc.  
Mobilization for Justice, Inc.  
Modern Courts  
My Sister's Place  
NAACP New York Conference  
Neighborhood SHOPP  
New Alternatives for Children  
New Castle League of Women Voters  
New York City Bar Association

New York Immigration Coalition  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
New York Legal Assistance Group/NYLAG  
New York Legal Services Coalition  
New York State Bar Association  
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
North Country League of Women Voters  
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation/NMIC  
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc., (OCO) Crisis & Development Services  
Pace Women's Justice Center  
Partnership for New York City  
Prison Families Anonymous  
ProBonoNet  
Queens County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project  
Rising Ground (formerly Leake and Watts)  
Rivertowns League of Women Voters  
Rochester Metropolitan Area League of Women Voters  
Rockland County League of Women Voters  
Safe Homes of Orange County  
Safe Horizon  
Safe Passage Project  
Sanctuary for Families  
Saratoga County League of Women Voters  
SCO Family of Services  
Shalom Task Force  
Sheltering Arms  
STOP Domestic Violence/Behavioral Health Services North, Inc.  
The Children's Law Center  
The Door  
The Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services  
The Legal Aid Society of NYC  
The Legal Aid Society of Rochester  
The Safe Center Long Island  
UJA Federation - NY  
Unity House of Troy, Inc.  
Urban Justice Center  
Urban Resource Institute  
Vera House, Inc.  
Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk (VIBS)  
Violence Intervention Program, Inc.  
Voices of Women  
VOLS (Volunteers of Legal Services)  
Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc.  
Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County  
Weinberg Center for Elder Justice at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale  
Westchester County Office for Women  
Westchester Jewish Community Services  
Westchester Women's Agenda  
Western New York Law Center  
William Randolph Hearst Public Advocacy Center at Touro Law Center, Suffolk County  
Youth Represent

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