

New York State Coalition for More Family Court Judges

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Governor Cuomo Signs Bill Adding 25 Family Court Judges to the New York State Courts *Coalition of Over 110 Organizations Applauds the Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches of Government for their work on behalf of children and families*

Today Governor Cuomo signed into law legislation (S7883/A10139), which adds 25 more Family Court Judges statewide. The over 110 members of the New York State Coalition for More Family Court Judges are extremely grateful to the Governor, the Legislature and the Judiciary for recognizing the overwhelming need for more Family Court Judges to reduce the delays children, victims of violence and families are currently facing.

The law adds 20 Family Court Judges starting January 2015: 9 in New York City (at least one per borough) and 1 Judge in the counties of Albany, Broome, Chautauqua, Franklin, Nassau, Oneida, Oswego, Schenectady, Suffolk, Ulster and Westchester. The law adds 5 more Family Court Judges to begin January 1, 2016 with one additional Judge in Delaware, Dutchess, Erie, Monroe and Warren Counties.

“On behalf of the thousands of children and families represented by the over 110 members of the NYS Coalition for More Family Court Judges, I can say that today is a great day for New York’s children and families! Governor Cuomo’s signature is the final step in this tremendous effort by the Governor, Judiciary, Legislature, advocates, and families to bring more Family Court Judges to counties throughout the state. The 25 new Family Court Judgeships will go a long way towards helping to alleviate the backlog and enable the justice system to decide child welfare, juvenile justice, domestic violence, and custody cases more timely.” said Stephanie Gendell, Co-Chair of the New York State Coalition for More Family Court Judges and Associate Executive Director for Policy and Government Relations at Citizens’ Committee for Children.

“This law achieves the largest investment in Family Court in 50 years. It is an investment that directly benefits the thousands of children, families, and victims of domestic violence, who appear before the court seeking safety and justice under often unspeakable circumstances. By recognizing the importance of providing more resources to Family Court, all three branches of government have come together, acknowledged the dire consequences of unequal justice and have addressed it with bipartisan support – that is a great achievement. As co-chair of this hardworking coalition, whose members spend each day seeking justice for so many New Yorkers, I am proud of this outcome and continue to believe with clarity of purpose, our elected officials can do what’s right.” said Denise Kronstadt, Co-Chair of the New York State Coalition for More Family Court Judges and Deputy Executive Director/Director of Advocacy at the Fund for Modern Courts.

The New York State Coalition for More Family Court Judges is a coalition of over 100 organizations from all across New York State that has come together to ensure that New York State provides for more resources for Family Courts, **including at least 20 more Family Court Judges statewide to provide justice for families.**

New York State Coalition for More Family Court Judges

1. Vivian Fox, President, 1199 Child Care Corporation
2. Assigned Counsel/Attorney for Children Panel, Kings County Family Court
3. Association of the Assigned Counsel of Queens Family Court
4. Bronx County Bar Association
5. Bronx Defenders
6. Bronx Family Court Bar Association
7. Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project
8. Brooklyn Defender Services
9. CASA of Rockland County, Inc.
10. CASA of the Southern Tier, Inc.
11. CASA-NYC
12. CASA-NYS
13. Center for Community Justice
14. Center for Family Representation
15. Child & Family Services
16. Child and Family Services Haven House
17. Children's Defense Fund – New York
18. The Children's Law Center
19. Child Welfare Organizing Project
20. Child Welfare Services, Westchester Institute for Human Development
21. The Children's Agenda
22. The Children's Aid Society
23. Children's Rights
24. Citizens' Committee for Children
25. Committee for Hispanic Children and Families
26. The Committee for Modern Courts
27. Correctional Association of New York
28. Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies
29. Courts in Crisis
30. Day One
31. The Door
32. Empire Justice Center
33. Episcopal Social Services of New York
34. Equinox
35. Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence
36. Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
37. Forestdale, Inc.
38. Good Shepherd Services
39. Graham Windham
40. Haitian American Lawyers Association of New York, Inc. (HALANY)
41. Her Justice
42. Hiscock Legal Aid Society
43. Hope's Door
44. Human Services Council
45. Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services
46. Jewish Child Care Association
47. Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York
48. Lawyers For Children
49. League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties
50. League of Women Voters of the City of New York
51. League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNYS)
52. League of Women Voters of Schenectady County
53. League of Women Voters of Smithtown (Suffolk County)
54. Leake and Watts

55. The Legal Aid Society of New York
56. Legal Information for Families Today
57. The Legal Project
58. Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western NY, Inc.
59. The Lineage Project
60. Long Islanders for Youth (LIFY)
61. Mediation Matters
62. MercyFirst
63. MFY Legal Services
64. National Center for Access to Justice
65. The Network of Bar Leaders
66. New York Asian Women's Center
67. New York Center for Juvenile Justice
68. New York City Anti-Violence Project
69. New York City Council General Welfare Chair, Stephen Levin
70. New York Foundling
71. New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
72. New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)
73. New York State Court Officers Association
74. New York State LGBTQ Domestic Violence Network
75. New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children
76. Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp.
77. NYU Family Defense Clinic
78. The Osborne Association
79. Pace Women's Justice Center
80. Probono.net
81. RISE – Broome County
82. Safe Horizon
83. Safe Space NYC
84. St. Catherine's Center for Children
85. The Safe Center LI, Inc.
86. Sanctuary for Families
87. Sauti Yetu Center for African Women
88. Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.
89. Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy (SCAA)
90. Sepa Mujer
91. Staten Island Women's Bar Association
92. United Neighborhood Houses
93. Unity House of Troy, Inc.
94. Urban Justice Center, Domestic Violence Project
95. Treat Me Right, Inc.
96. Vanderheyden
97. Vera House, Inc.
98. VIBS Family Violence & Rape Crisis Center
99. Violence Intervention Program, Inc.
100. Voices of Women Organizing Project (VOW)
101. Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc.
102. Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County, Inc.
103. The Washbourne House
104. Westchester Children's Association
105. Western New York Law Center
106. Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc.
107. You Gotta Believe!
108. Youth Represent
109. YWCA of Northeastern New York

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