

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Statement on the Resignation Announcement of New York State Court of Appeals Chief Judge Janet DiFiore

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to New York State Court of Appeals Chief Judge Janet DiFiore's announcement to resign next month:

"The Legal Aid Society thanks Chief Judge Janet DiFiore for her years of public service and efforts to improve New York's court system, bolster funding for civil legal services organizations, and for improving our clients' access to justice.

We implore Governor Kathy Hochul to now nominate a jurist to the New York State Court of Appeals who has served as a public defender, civil legal services attorney or both, and equally important, from the neighborhoods we serve, historically marginalized communities of color.

The absence of a public defender and civil legal services attorney on the Court creates a tremendous gap of knowledge and experience, which is especially problematic given the critical issues confronting the Court and our legal system as a whole.

The public deserves a representative on the bench who is familiar with the struggles that our clients, Black and Latinx New Yorkers, are forced to endure every day. We look forward to working with Albany lawmakers to ensure that an appointment reflecting these essential voices occurs."

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 145 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. www.legalaidnyc.org