

June 10, 2025

Contact:

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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

***Senator Cleare and Assemblymember Gibbs and other Elected Officials Stand with Advocates and Directly Impacted New Yorkers to Hold Press Conference Calling for Full Passage of the Jury of Our Peers Act***

**(ALBANY, NY)** - Senator Cordell Cleare and Assemblymember Eddie Gibbs will hold a press conference with fellow elected officials and advocates tomorrow, Wednesday, June 11, at 11:00 AM, urging the New York State Legislature to pass the [\*Jury of Our Peers Act\*](#). This critical legislation would repeal New York's lifetime jury service eligibility ban for individuals with past felony convictions—an outdated and discriminatory law that undermines racial justice, skews jury representation, and weakens the democratic process.

Despite statewide progress to restore voting rights to people impacted by the criminal legal system, New York permanently bars these individuals from eligibility for serving on juries. This practice disproportionately excludes Black, brown, and working-class New Yorkers from jury pools — especially in communities already devastated by over-policing and mass incarceration.

Advocates will highlight the urgent need to align New York law with democratic values and national best practices. More than half of states and Washington, D.C. already provide a path for people with felony convictions to serve on juries.

**WHO:** Senator Cordell Cleare, Senator Julia Salazar, Assemblymember Eddie Gibbs, Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, Assemblymember Gabriella Romero, Assemblymember Harvey Epstein, Assemblymember Chris Burdick, the New York Civil Liberties Union, The Legal Action Center, Community Service Society, The Legal Aid Society, Neighborhood Defender Services, impacted New Yorkers, and more.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 11:00 AM

**WHERE:** 4th Floor Senate Gallery in the New York State Capitol

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