Our message to the community:

As judges of color who preside over criminal and civil matters within the community, we feel compelled, in light of events that have been and are unfolding before us all across the country, to take a moment to convey our thoughts, as to our responsibility and commitment as jurists.

W.E.B. Du Bois, the first African American to receive a Ph.D from Harvard University, wrote over a century ago in 1903, in his book titled “The Souls of Black Folk”, that:

“Daily the [person of color] is coming more and more to look upon law and justice, not as protecting safeguards, but as sources of humiliation and oppression.”

Sadly, for too many, such sentiments are as raw today as they were in 1903, as evidenced by worldwide protests in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd.

Each day we seek to dispel any narrative or belief that looks upon courts as instruments of injustice, by treating each person fairly and impartially while upholding our oaths to the constitutions of the State of New York and the United States. However, there is much work to be done, and we like all judges must be mindful of the impact of systemic racism or bias in fulfilling the court’s responsibility to ensure equal justice to all under the law.

We reaffirm our commitment to make a positive difference within our respective courts each day and to ensure that those appearing before us are treated equally, with the respect and dignity that both the law and humanity require.

Sincerely,

Court of Appeals
Hon. Jenny Rivera, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals
Hon. Rowan D. Wilson, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals
Appellate Division and Appellate Terms of the NYS Supreme Court
Hon. Betty Barros, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department
Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department
Hon. Lizbeth González, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department
Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan, Associate Justice, Appellate Term, First Department, NYS Supreme Court
Hon. Sallie Manzanet-Daniels, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department
Hon. L. Priscilla Hall (Ret.), Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department
Hon. Dianne T. Renwick, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department
Hon. Wavnya Toussaint, NYS Supreme Court Kings County and Associate Justice of the Appellate Term, Second Department
NYS Supreme Court
Hon. John Carter, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Criminal Term, Bronx County
Hon. Margaret Chan, ASC, NYS Supreme Court Justice, New York County
Hon. Lizette Colon, Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice
Hon. Gordon Cuffy, Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice
Hon. Kathie Davidson, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Westchester County, Administrative Judge, 9th Judicial District
Hon. Tandra L. Dawson, Acting Supreme Court Justice, New York County, Integrated Domestic Violence Court
Hon. Althea E.M. Drysdale, Acting Supreme Court Justice, New York County
Hon. Erika Edwards, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Criminal Term, New York County
Hon. Genine D. Edwards, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Civil Term, Kings County
Hon. William G. Ford, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Suffolk County
Hon. Sharon Gianelli, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Nassau County
Hon. Wyatt N. Gibbons, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Civil Term, Queens County
Hon. Wilma Guzman, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Bronx County
Hon. Kenneth C. Holder, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Queens County
Hon. Phillip Hom, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Queens County
Hon. Sharren Hudson, Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice, Criminal Term, Kings County
Hon. Debra A. James, NYS Supreme Court Justice, New York County
Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Civil Term, New York County
Hon. Janet C. Malone, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Westchester County
Hon. Larry D. Martin, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Commercial Division, Kings County
Hon. La Tia W. Martin, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Civil Term, Bronx County
Hon. Manuel J. Mendez, NYS Supreme Court Justice, New York County
Hon. Marsha D. Michael, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Criminal Term, Bronx County
Hon. Donald A. Miles, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Bronx County
Hon. Guy H. Mitchell, Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice, Criminal Term, Bronx County
Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, NYS Supreme Court Justice, 8th Judicial District
Hon. Bahaaei E. Pitt, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Criminal Term, Bronx County
Hon. Joanne D. Quinones, Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice, Criminal Term, Kings County
Hon. Leticia Maria Ramirez, Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice, New York County
Hon. Richard Rivera, Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice, Albany County Family Court Judge
Hon. Linet M. Rosado, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Civil Term, Bronx County
Hon. Verna Saunders, NYS Supreme Court Justice
Hon. Toko Serita, Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice, Criminal Term, Queens County
Hon. Ruth Shillingford, Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice, Criminal Term, Kings County
Hon. J. Machelle Sweeping, Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice, Harlem Community Justice Center, Presiding Justice
Hon. Delores J. Thomas, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Kings County
Hon. Kenneth L. Thompson, Jr., NYS Supreme Court Justice, Bronx County
Hon. Alison Y. Tuitt, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Civil Term, Bronx County
Hon. George R. Villegas, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Criminal Term, Bronx County
Hon. Laura Visitation-Lewis (Ret.), NYS Supreme Court