

*Chief Judge of the State of New York*



*Janet Di Fiore*

December 12, 2018

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor  
The City of New York  
Office of the Mayor  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

I am writing to urge you to act promptly in filling the 15 judicial vacancies that will exist in New York City on January 1, 2019. The filling of these vacancies -- 4 Family Court judgeships and 11 interim Civil Court judgeships -- is critical to the Judiciary's ongoing program to eliminate backlogs and delays in the courts. A top priority of our efforts is reducing the number of criminal cases involving individuals who are detained at the Rikers Island jail facility, a goal that I know you strongly support. Interim Civil Court Judges are usually assigned to the City's criminal courts, so the prompt filling of those judgeships is crucial to that effort. Equally crucial is filling the judgeships for Family Court, which is currently absorbing the impact of the new Raise the Age legislation, as well as handling its usual high volume of child protective and other cases.

I am sure you recognize that any delay in filling this large number of judgeships will frustrate our efforts and make our mutually shared goals much more difficult to achieve. If the vacancies are not filled on time, courtrooms throughout the City will be closed, and litigants' cases will not be heard. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is that you make every effort to ensure that these judicial vacancies are filled in a timely fashion. Given the importance of this subject, historically we have enjoyed prompt attention to this matter.

If you anticipate that filling these judgeships by January 1 will be a problem, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

*Janet Di Fiore*