

New York State Court Clerks Association

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Good afternoon/evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Glenn Damato. I am president of the New York State Court Clerks Association. Thank you for letting me speak at the Public Protection Hearing.

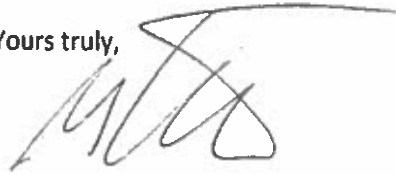
Having been employed in the New York courts for 27 years, I am very familiar with the needs of the court. It has been very difficult to run the New York City courts with the staffing that is currently in place at this time. Before the "Workforce Reduction Plan" that was implemented several years ago, my union had a membership numbering almost 1800 members. In 2018, despite the recent hiring of 120 court clerks, we struggle to maintain a membership barely over 1500.

In this ever changing world of modern technology, it is very important to maintain staffing to insure efficient implementation of new programs, as well as to provide prompt and courteous service to the public. With the advent of computer generated court calendars, electronic filing, and other new programs and systems new to the courts, it is imperative to keep court staffing at levels commensurate with the workload.

I have witnessed numerous delays in the courts in the last few years. These delays were largely the result of short staffing. The lack of court clerks citywide has slowed down every facet of the court's procedures. The litigants, the defendants, the attorneys and anyone else who comes in contact with the justice system in the City of New York demand (and deserve) court houses that are run efficiently and with alacrity.

I ask that every consideration be made in making sure the New York State courts are sufficiently funded and remain a viable, fair, and swift source of justice in the City of New York. I welcome any and all questions and concerns.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GLD', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Glenn L. Damato

President

New York Court Clerks Association