

Support Court Simplification!

**Support the Article VII Bill Submitted by the Governor in the 2020-2021 Budget
Support Court Simplification/Restructuring Proposed by the Chief Judge
Reform the NYS Court Structure to Better Serve the Diverse People of Our State**

Our court system is not accessible, navigable and trusted by ALL New Yorkers. The court system cannot provide equal justice to the diverse people of New York based upon a 19th century idea of justice.

We have to amend the State Constitution to bring our court system up to date. We have no other choice as we move toward the future. We have inherited a problem and the Legislature can fix it!

New York's existing multiple court structure creates confusion for the people the justice system is supposed to serve. For many, and frequently in matters involving the safety of families and children, the scenario is this: different judges decide on different pieces of inter-related cases, as a result each judge has an incomplete story of a case causing individuals to receive multiple decisions and faulty resolution of their cases.

As a result, all parties to a case have to make multiple appearances, along with any government agencies, attorneys and witnesses and have to repeat, again and again the trauma that caused them to appear in court. This not only wastes time for everyone, it is completely unfair and unproductive way to provide justice, causes the loss of work and wages and perpetuates a system that is difficult, if not impossible, to understand, and hurts individuals and their families as they get caught up in systemic chaos.

Change is possible. We can have a diverse bench and service the diverse people of this state.

Amending the Constitution will:

- Remove the barriers that impact all litigants, families, victims, local governments, small business, lawyers, nonprofit organizations, judges, court personnel and anyone who uses the courts,
- Integrate the courts in a way that eliminates the need to go to different courts for different yet related issues, and
- Allow more resources to go to the courts that need them the most.

The Simplify the Courts! Coalition is a growing alliance of over 110 organizations from all parts of the state representing a diverse cross section of New Yorkers established to achieve the critical goal of amending the NYS Constitution and simplifying the New York State court system. To join or for more information on the issue visit: simplifycourts.org or email: Denise Kronstadt, Director of Advocacy and Policy, Fund for Modern Courts, justice@moderncourts.org

