



**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: New York State Family Court

PURPOSE: To conduct oversight of the Family Court throughout the State, including its resources, operations, and outcomes.

**Wednesday
November 1, 2023
10 a.m.
Senate Hearing Room
250 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007**

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Family Court is many New Yorkers' first or only interaction with the legal system. Its jurisdiction includes adoption, guardianship, foster care, delinquency, persons in need of supervision (PINS), domestic violence, child protective proceedings, parental rights, custody and visitation, and child support. The Family Court overwhelmingly serves indigent litigants and people of color, and, according to Special Adviser on Equal Justice in the Courts Jeh Johnson, it is perceived as a "second-class court" that is "dehumanizing" with a "cattle-call culture."

Last year, the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission of the New York State Courts confirmed Special Adviser Johnson's findings and called for increased resources, procedural reforms, culture changes, and more in the Family Court. This hearing will build upon the Special Adviser's and Williams Commission's reports by conducting thorough oversight of all aspects of the Family Court, including but not limited to its resources, operations, culture, outcomes, and the appointment and supervision of judges.

Persons wishing to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes duration. Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Committees, in accordance with their policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans

with Disabilities Act (ADA), have made their facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to State Legislature facilities and activities.

Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Chair, Committee on Judiciary

Jabari Brisport
Chair, Committee on Children & Families

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons wishing to present testimony at the public hearing on Family Court are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible: by October 11 for those seeking to testify in person, and by October 16 for those seeking to submit written testimony. Please return this form by mail, email, or fax to both:

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Oral Testimony by Invitation Only

- I plan to attend the public hearing on November 1 to be conducted by the Committees on Judiciary and Children & Families.
- I plan to make a public statement at the above hearing. My statement will be limited to 10 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information.

Please specify the type of assistance required:

NAME:

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

E-MAIL:

TELEPHONE / FAX: