

# SUFFOLK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



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*Via Email & Hard Copy [jdifiore@nycourts.gov](mailto:jdifiore@nycourts.gov)*

**President**

Hon. Derrick J. Robinson

October 9, 2020

**President Elect**

Daniel J. Tambasco

Hon. Janet DiFiore, Chief Judge  
New York State Court of Appeals  
20 Eagle Street  
Albany, New York 12207

**First Vice President**

Vincent J. Messina, Jr

**Second Vice President**

Cornell V. Bouse

Reference: Certification of Supreme Court Justices

**Treasurer**

Patrick McCormick

Dear Judge DiFiore:

**Secretary**

Hon. John J. Leo

In my capacity as President of the Suffolk County Bar Association, and on behalf of our Officers, Directors and our 2,500 members, we voice our concern with regard to the recent decision to certificate only a small number of Supreme Court Justices this year.

**Executive Director**

Sarah Jane LaCova

The Suffolk County Bar Association is deeply concerned with both the impact of this decision and, perhaps more important, the process, or lack thereof, which bore this result.

**Directors**

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The diminution in the number of Supreme Court Justices in the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District will place an additional undue burden on an already taxed judicial system. While this adverse effect would be borne by all users of the court system, it would especially harm those in communities who are traditionally underserved and who must rely on the courts the most. Lastly, the people of the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District would lose a priceless asset: the years of accumulated experience and wisdom that certificated Justices bring to the cases they are assigned.

**Past President Directors**

Justin M. Block  
Patricia M. Meisenheimer  
Lynn Poster-Zimmerman

We are not unmindful of the economic challenges that the court system is facing in these unprecedented times. Accordingly, we stand ready, willing, and able to work with the Office of Court Administration to find ways to provide necessary services in more efficient and economical ways so that we can collectively continue to provide the excellence in our courts that you have worked so very hard to achieve.

**Counsel**

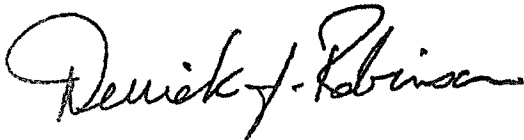
John H. Gross

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We firmly believe that the only way to arrive at a fair, just, and workable result that minimizes any adverse impacts on the public we serve requires input from and cooperation with all stakeholders, including the organized bar. As far as we are aware, there was no opportunity for Bar Associations to participate in the decision making process, notwithstanding that their member attorneys are on the front line each and every day explaining and defending our court system against those who neither understand or acknowledge the tremendous role it plays in the everyday lives of those who utilize it.

Thank you for your consideration of our position and, most of all, your leadership throughout the current public health crisis. We look forward to working with you to address the many serious challenges which lie ahead.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derrick J. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Derrick J. Robinson  
President  
Suffolk County Bar Association

DJR/jlc

cc: Hon. Lawrence K. Marks  
Chief Administrative Judge

Hon. Andrew A. Crecca  
District Administrative Judge, Suffolk County