



# NEW YORK STATE-FEDERAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL

## **Statement by the New York State-Federal Judicial Council Regarding Judicial Security**

The New York State-Federal Judicial Council will make recommendations to address threats to the physical safety of judges, their staff and families in the wake of the tragic events involving the family of a federal judge in New Jersey. “Our hearts go out to Judge Esther Salas of the District of New Jersey and her family, and we are moved by her recently released video calling for action to prevent further tragedies,” said Federal Judge P. Kevin Castel, Chair of the Council. He added “Those who would do harm, do not care about geographic or jurisdictional boundaries and we must look at the problem as transcending any one court system.”

Vice Chair, Judge Michael Garcia of the New York Court of Appeals, said “Every effort must be made to prevent further tragedies and to protect the integrity of the judicial system.”

Proposals that will be considered by the Council include:

- Enhancing coordination between federal and state law enforcement agencies assessing potential threats to judges, their staff and families.
- Supporting legislation to keep judges’ home addresses and other personal information private.
- Facilitating reporting by all relevant disciplinary bodies of any communications that contain threats against judges.
- Enlisting legal organizations and their members to adopt a “see something, say something” approach to threatening communications.

The Council works to promote coordination and information sharing between state and federal judicial systems. Efforts of the Council related to judicial security are intended to augment but not supplant the important work already being done by members of state and federal law enforcement and existing judicial security committees and authorities.

The members of the Council are appointed by the Chief Judge of the State of New York, Hon. Janet DiFiore, and the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Hon. Robert A. Katzmann. The Council is assisted in its work by an Advisory Group of lawyers from all geographic regions of the State.