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December 5, 2017

The Honorable Janet DiFiore, Chief Judge of the
Court of Appeals and of the State of New York
20 Eagle Street
Albany, New York 12207

Thomas D. Homan, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director,
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Thomas R. Decker, Field Office Director
Enforcement and Removal Operations Field Offices, New York
26 Federal Plaza 9th Fl., Suite 9-110
New York, New York 10278

Dear Chief Judge DiFiore, Mr. Homan & Mr. Decker:

My office is in the Bronx County Building on the Grand Concourse, mere steps from all the Bronx courts including criminal, housing and family court. The people of The Bronx come to these buildings, voluntarily or otherwise, in many roles: plaintiff, defendant, respondent, witness and juror. But they are all seeking the same thing: justice and a fair adjudication of the matter in which they are involved. We owe them this. Indeed, attempting to provide even-handed justice is a defining hallmark of our democracy.

We are failing in this high obligation. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") agents are repeatedly infiltrating courthouses, lying in wait, and arresting people who are there only to pursue the just resolution of their cases. This has left people terrified to come to court, and my office has been informed by advocacy organizations that many people have simply stopped coming.

Failing to attend one's court dates can have grave consequences, including the loss of liberty, loss of one's home, one's job and even one's children. Nobody should be forced to make such a choice.

Notwithstanding the overheated and offensive rhetoric from Washington about those being targeted by ICE, it is now clear that innumerable people are being arrested and deported -- often after decades of law-abiding lives in the United States marked by work, family, tax-paying and civic engagement -- merely for the civil

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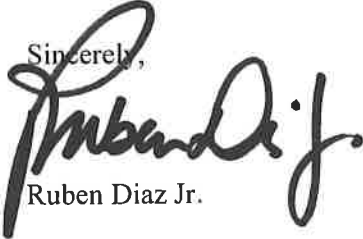
offense of being undocumented. This approach and its ideological roots would be problematic in any context. But when it is employed in a place that undermines our society's pursuit of justice, the courthouse, it is no longer just a problem. It is an offense to decency.

Mr. Homan and Mr. Decker, I demand you order your agents out of our courthouses so the unimpeded pursuit of justice may resume.

Judge DiFiore, I urge you to act more forcefully in this area, ordering court personnel and court officers to provide no information or other cooperation to any ICE officer in a courthouse unless such officer has a warrant signed by an Article III judge. I further urge you to bar ICE officers from New York State courthouses, and to extend New York City's sanctuary city policies to the courts.

I am available to discuss these important matters at your respective convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruben Diaz Jr.", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely," and above the printed name "Ruben Diaz Jr.".

Ruben Diaz Jr.