

**\*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*    \*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*    \*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\***



## **Protests Amass at Brooklyn Criminal Courthouse in Response to Egregious ICE Activity and Arrest Earlier Today**

**BROOKLYN, NY – November 28, 2017** – Immigration advocates, attorneys and a growing number of people have assembled at the Brooklyn criminal courthouse in response to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity earlier today. The protests follow an alleged incident that occurred at approximately 11 a.m. ET, when two plain-clothed ICE agents arrested a man on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of Kings County Criminal Court. Office of Court Administration (OCA) officers escorted the ICE agents, who denied they were federal agents when asked, and the man they apprehended to a secure area reserved for court personnel. When the man’s public defender attempted to invoke their client’s right to have an attorney present while being questioned, multiple witnesses report that the public defender was shoved away to prevent them from reaching their client. Another public defender tried to tell a nearby OCA officer that ICE agents were not allowed in that particular area of the courthouse, but the OCA officer ignored her.

Shortly thereafter, a protest led by attorneys and immigration advocates began outside of the courthouse. **Please see video here:** <https://twitter.com/rkidvai/status/935561089642848257>

“Today’s ICE arrest is the latest in a growing number of alarming reports of collusion of courthouse officers actively helping ICE arrest immigrant New Yorkers,” said Lee Wang, staff attorney at the Immigrant Defense Project. “ICE’s presence in courts undermines our criminal justice system and obstructs public safety as it sows fear of attending court among the immigrant community.”

Earlier this month, the Immigrant Defense Project released a report indicating a 900% increase in ICE courthouse arrests across New York State since last year. For more information, please visit the Immigrant Defense Project at [ImmigrantDefenseProject.org](http://ImmigrantDefenseProject.org).

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