

January 10, 2023

To Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and the New York State Senate:

As immigrant rights organizations in a state of over 4.5 million immigrants, we unequivocally oppose Governor Hochul's nomination of Justice Hector LaSalle to serve as Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals. We write to urge Governor Hochul to withdraw his nomination and nominate a jurist who will safeguard the rights of all New Yorkers, including immigrant New Yorkers, and urge the New York Senate to reject the nomination.

Judge LaSalle's regressive judicial record has prompted a diverse coalition of elected officials, union and labor leaders, reproductive justice networks and criminal legal reform organizations to oppose his nomination. We stand with the many others who have stood up against his nomination because we know all too well that harm to workers, restrictions to reproductive justice access, and lack of due process will only hurt New York's immigrant communities.

In particular, we are deeply troubled by Judge LaSalle's record on due process, including opinions and dissents that [undermine the right to appeal](#), [prohibit the withdrawal of a guilty plea](#) made due to false assertions of counsel, perpetuate the [criminalization of immigrant youth](#), and [strip minors of their rights](#) in police interrogation, among others. Our organizations have long fought to increase protections for immigrants defending themselves in a racist and xenophobic criminal legal system. Yet, LaSalle's record demonstrates a disturbing pattern with irreversible consequences for immigrant New Yorkers - in particular Black and Latino immigrant communities - who risk being funneled into the hands of ICE. Robust due process protections are key to defend against the vilification, detention and deportation of immigrants in our state. We must strengthen those protections, not allow them to be undercut.

To stand with immigrant New Yorkers, we call on the Governor to withdraw LaSalle's nomination immediately and if she fails to do so, for the Senate to reject his confirmation.

Immigrant Defense Project
African Communities Together
Alianza Agricola
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Center for Appellate Litigation
Center for Popular Democracy Action
Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN-NY)
El Centro Del Inmigrante
Chhaya Community Development Corporation
Churches United for Fair Housing
Clemency Coalition of New York
DRUM - Desis Rising Up and Moving

Envision Freedom Fund
Families for Freedom
Immigrant ARC
Immigrant Justice Corps
Justice for Migrant Families
Make the Road New York
Mekong NYC
MinKwon Center for Community Action
New Immigrant Community Empowerment
New York Immigration Coalition
Neighbors Link
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
Queens Defenders
Safe Harbor Clinic
Southeast Asian Defense Project
Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (STOP)
TakeRoot Justice
United Auto Workers Region 9A
UnLocal
WESPAC Foundation