

Westchester DA Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr.

“The growing presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in Westchester courts undermines our efforts to effectively investigate and prosecute crimes. When ICE uses our local courthouses to make civil immigration arrests, both immigrants who are victims of or witnesses to domestic violence, scams, wage theft or violent crimes are now fearful that coming to court may lead to arrest by ICE. How can justice be served if some of our most vulnerable are afraid to come forward? I support the Protect Our Courts Act to ensure a fair and equitable system, and a safer and more secure community.”

Nassau DA Madeline Singas

“New York’s justice system works best when everyone has access. Immigrants who are victims of domestic violence, wage theft, fraud, or violent crime should be able to seek justice regardless of their status, and they should be able to come to court for that purpose without fear that their appearance will lead to civil arrest by ICE.”

Albany DA David Soares

“Courthouses should be safe spaces for everyone. Prosecutors, advocates and police have spent decades researching and applying best practices in an effort to encourage the reporting of violent crimes, including sexual assaults and domestic violence crimes. Demagoguery of the issue has caused fear and concern in many citizens and has led to decreased reporting. The activities of Immigration and Customs Enforcement is compromising our ability to hold accountable perpetrators who prey upon victims from vulnerable immigrant communities.”

Bronx DA Darcel D. Clark

“I endorse the Protect Our Courts Act because, as the Bronx District Attorney, I encourage people to report crimes... If a victim or witness who is essential to the prosecution of a heinous case is arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement when he or she shows up at the courthouse, we cannot go forward with the case, resulting in cases being dismissed and dangerous individuals being released back into the community. This could have a chilling effect on getting witnesses to assist in our cases, potentially resulting in a threat to public safety.”

Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez

“These actions jeopardize public safety by instilling fear in immigrant communities, which makes victims and witnesses afraid to come forward to report crimes, and unable to get justice. Keeping Brooklyn safe and strengthening community trust in law enforcement are my top priorities as Brooklyn DA, and ICE’s actions undermine those important goals. I support the efforts to end this misguided practice.”

Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance, Jr.

“Deporting New Yorkers who show up to court is antithetical to our values and detrimental to our public safety. The fear of unjust deportation stops crime victims from coming forward, and stops defendants from responsibly attending their court dates. I thank Assembly Member Solages for her work on this bill and urge the legislature to pass it immediately, because all New Yorkers have the right to safely access our courts, whether they are documented or undocumented under federal law.”