

State of New York
Unified Court System



Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge

25 Beaver Street
New York, N.Y. 10004
(212) 428-2100

June 14, 2020

Hon. Liz Krueger
New York State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 416
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Krueger:

Chief Judge DiFiore and I have received your June 12, 2020 letter, signed by a number of your colleagues, in which you express concerns about the reopening of New York City Housing Court to in-person proceedings.

Please be assured that the return of in-person proceedings in Housing Court is not imminent and is subject to no existing timeline. Our judicial administrators who oversee Housing Court operations have begun to consider issues relating to how Housing Court might begin to handle in-person operations, in a manner that, first and foremost, ensures the safety of judges, court staff, litigants, attorneys and others who work in or visit the Court. In that regard, a wide range of steps will be considered in strict accordance with prevailing public health protocols, including social distancing requirements, personal protective equipment, screening for COVID-19 symptoms, strict cleaning protocols, additional space availability in other court facilities, virtual court proceedings, expanded use of alternative dispute resolution, etc. We have also retained an experienced epidemiologist to assist us in these efforts.

In developing our plans we will receive input from Housing Court stakeholders, including legal services providers. Please let me know if you have further questions, and please circulate this reply to the other signatories on your letter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet DiFiore". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chief Judge Janet DiFiore