

***Statement by Coalition of Court Unions supporting Nomination of Hon. Hector LaSalle for Chief Judge of New York State Court of Appeals***

***January 12, 2023***

We are leaders of five unions representing workers in the court system and we are writing to express our support for the confirmation of Justice Hector LaSalle, Presiding Justice of the Second Department, as the new Chief Judge of New York State.

We have watched with dismay as some legislators and others pre-emptively decided to oppose Justice LaSalle’s nomination, even before they have a chance to meet with him and discuss his qualifications. That does a disservice to Justice LaSalle, and to the Constitutionally-mandated process of advise and consent.

Misrepresenting his record based on a selective and politically motivated misreading of a handful of cases is painting a portrait of a judge at odds with his distinguished record as a fair, scholarly, experienced, temperate and skilled judge, with vast administrative experience overseeing the busiest Appellate Department in the state.

We refer you to other letters and articles written by former judicial colleagues of Justice LaSalle’s, including justices involved in the decisions which have been so misrepresented, as well as a broad cross-section of Bar leaders, to underscore the injustice of the attacks on a man who would make history as the first Latino to head New York State’s court system,

The Justice LaSalle we know, and in whose courtroom many of our members have worked, would be a worthy Chief Judge. We urge Senators to give him a fair hearing, with open minds, after which we believe you will see why he should be confirmed.

Respectfully signed by:

**NEW YORK STATE COURT OFFICERS ASSOC., DENNIS W. QUIRK, PRESIDENT**

**COURT OFFICERS BENEVOLENT ASSOC OF NASSAU COUNTY, PETER PICIULO, PRESIDENT**

**COURT ATTORNEYS ASSOC OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, JEANETTE MERCEDES, PRESIDENT**

**ASSOCIATION OF SUPREME COURT REPORTERS, ERIC ALLEN, PRESIDENT**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY EMPLOYEES ASSOC, GERARD GWINN, PRESIDENT**