

**Supreme Court of the State of New York
County of New York**

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NEW YORK COUNTY LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION, BRONX COUNTY BAR
ASSOCIATION, BROOKLYN BAR
ASSOCIATION, QUEENS COUNTY BAR
ASSOCIATION, RICHMOND COUNTY BAR
ASSOCIATION, ASSIGNED COUNSEL
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE, INC.
(ACA-NYS, INC.), METROPOLITAN BLACK
BAR ASSOCIATION, MACON B. ALLEN
BLACK BAR ASSOCIATION, LATINO
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENS
COUNTY, and ASIAN AMERICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK,

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Index No. 156916/2021

Plaintiffs,

-against-

THE STATE OF NEW YORK, THE CITY OF
NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, and SHERIF
SOLIMAN, in his official capacity as
Commissioner of the New York City
Department of Finance,

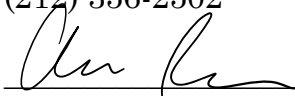
Defendants.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that defendants THE CITY OF NEW YORK,
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, and SHERIF SOLIMAN, in his
official capacity as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Finance,
hereby appeal to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Department,
from the decision and order of the Honorable Lisa S. Headley, herein dated July 25,
2022 and entered in the office of the Clerk of New York County on July 25, 2022.

Dated: New York, New York
August 25, 2022

HON. SYLVIA O. HINDS-RADIX
Corporation Counsel
of the City of New York
Attorney for Defendants THE
CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW
YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE, and SHERIF
SOLIMAN, in his official capacity
as Commissioner of the New York
City Department of Finance
100 Church Street
New York, New York 10007
(212) 356-2502

By: 
Claude S. Platten
Deputy Chief, Appeals Division

To: KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS &
FRANKEL LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiffs
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 715-9100
mdell@kramerlevin.com

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
Anjali Bhat
Attorneys for Defendant
The State of New York
28 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10005
(212) 416-8632
anjali.bhat@ag.ny.gov

CLERK,
County of New York

Supreme Court of the State of New York

Appellate Division: First Judicial Department

Informational Statement (Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1250.3 [a]) - Civil

Case Title: Set forth the title of the case as it appears on the summons, notice of petition or order to show cause by which the matter was or is to be commenced, or as amended.

NEW YORK COUNTY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, BRONX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, BROOKLYN BAR ASSOCIATION, QUEENS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, RICHMOND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, ASSIGNED COUNSEL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE, INC. (ACA-NYS, INC.), METROPOLITAN BLACK BAR ASSOCIATION, MACON B. ALLEN BLACK BAR ASSOCIATION, LATINO LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENS COUNTY, and ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, plaintiffs

- against -

THE STATE OF NEW YORK, THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, and SHERIF SOLIMAN, in his official capacity as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Finance, defendants

For Court of Original Instance

Date Notice of Appeal Filed

For Appellate Division

Case Type

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Civil Action | ☐ CPLR article 78 Proceeding |
| ☐ CPLR article 75 Arbitration | ☐ Special Proceeding Other |
| | ☐ Habeas Corpus Proceeding |

Filing Type

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ Appeal | ☐ Transferred Proceeding |
| ☐ Original Proceedings | ☐ CPLR Article 78 |
| ☐ CPLR Article 78 | ☐ Executive Law § 298 |
| ☐ Eminent Domain | ☐ CPLR 5704 Review |
| ☐ Labor Law 220 or 220-b | |
| ☐ Public Officers Law § 36 | |
| ☐ Real Property Tax Law § 1278 | |

Nature of Suit: Check up to three of the following categories which best reflect the nature of the case.

☐ Administrative Review	☐ Business Relationships	☐ Commercial	☐ Contracts
☒ Declaratory Judgment	☐ Domestic Relations	☐ Election Law	☐ Estate Matters
☐ Family Court	☐ Mortgage Foreclosure	☒ Miscellaneous	☐ Prisoner Discipline & Parole
☐ Real Property (other than foreclosure)	☒ Statutory	☐ Taxation	☐ Torts

Informational Statement - Civil

Appeal			
Paper Appealed From (Check one only):		If an appeal has been taken from more than one order or judgment by the filing of this notice of appeal, please indicate the below information for each such order or judgment appealed from on a separate sheet of paper.	
☐ Amended Decree ☐ Amended Judgement ☐ Amended Order ☒ Decision ☐ Decree	☐ Determination ☐ Finding ☐ Interlocutory Decree ☐ Interlocutory Judgment ☐ Judgment	☒ Order ☐ Order & Judgment ☐ Partial Decree ☐ Resettled Decree ☐ Resettled Judgment	☐ Resettled Order ☐ Ruling ☐ Other (specify):
Court: Supreme Court		County: New York	
Dated: 7/25/22		Entered: 7/26/22	
Judge (name in full): Lisa Headley		Index No.: 156916/2021	
Stage: ☒ Interlocutory ☐ Final ☐ Post-Final		Trial: ☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes: ☐ Jury ☐ Non-Jury	
Prior Unperfected Appeal and Related Case Information			
Are any appeals arising in the same action or proceeding currently pending in the court? ☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, please set forth the Appellate Division Case Number assigned to each such appeal.			
Where appropriate, indicate whether there is any related action or proceeding now in any court of this or any other jurisdiction, and if so, the status of the case:			
Original Proceeding			
Commenced by: ☐ Order to Show Cause ☐ Notice of Petition ☐ Writ of Habeas Corpus			Date Filed:
Statute authorizing commencement of proceeding in the Appellate Division:			
Proceeding Transferred Pursuant to CPLR 7804(g)			
Court: Choose Court		County: Choose County	
Judge (name in full):		Order of Transfer Date:	
CPLR 5704 Review of Ex Parte Order:			
Court: Choose Court		County: Choose County	
Judge (name in full):		Dated:	
Description of Appeal, Proceeding or Application and Statement of Issues			
Description: If an appeal, briefly describe the paper appealed from. If the appeal is from an order, specify the relief requested and whether the motion was granted or denied. If an original proceeding commenced in this court or transferred pursuant to CPLR 7804(g), briefly describe the object of proceeding. If an application under CPLR 5704, briefly describe the nature of the ex parte order to be reviewed.			
Appeal from decision and order granting plaintiffs' order to show cause seeking a preliminary injunction and directing defendants to pay assigned counsel the rate of \$158 per hour retroactive to February 2, 2022			

Informational Statement - Civil

Issues: Specify the issues proposed to be raised on the appeal, proceeding, or application for CPLR 5704 review, the grounds for reversal, or modification to be advanced and the specific relief sought on appeal.

(1) Whether Supreme Court erred in its decision and order; and (2) whether Supreme Court erred in directing payment of the increased rate of \$158 per hour for periods prior to the entry of the preliminary injunction, dating back to February 2, 2022.

Party Information

Instructions: Fill in the name of each party to the action or proceeding, one name per line. If this form is to be filed for an appeal, indicate the status of the party in the court of original instance and his, her, or its status in this court, if any. If this form is to be filed for a proceeding commenced in this court, fill in only the party's name and his, her, or its status in this court.

No.	Party Name	Original Status	Appellate Division Status
1	NEW YORK COUNTY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION	Plaintiff	Respondent
2	BRONX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION	Plaintiff	Respondent
3	BROOKLYN BAR ASSOCIATION	Plaintiff	Respondent
4	QUEENS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION	Plaintiff	Respondent
5	RICHMOND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION	Plaintiff	Respondent
6	ASSIGNED COUNSEL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE, INC. (ACA-NYS, INC.)	Plaintiff	Respondent
7	METROPOLITAN BLACK BAR ASSOCIATION	Plaintiff	Respondent
8	MACON B. ALLEN BLACK BAR ASSOCIATION	Plaintiff	Respondent
9	LATINO LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENS COUNTY	Plaintiff	Respondent
10	ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK	Plaintiff	Respondent
11	THE STATE OF NEW YORK	Defendant	Respondent
12	THE CITY OF NEW YORK	Defendant	Appellant
13	NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE	Defendant	Appellant
14	SHERIF SOLIMAN, in his official capacity as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Finance	Defendant	Appellant
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

Attorney Information

Instructions: Fill in the names of the attorneys or firms for the respective parties. If this form is to be filed with the notice of petition or order to show cause by which a special proceeding is to be commenced in the Appellate Division, only the name of the attorney for the petitioner need be provided. In the event that a litigant represents herself or himself, the box marked "Pro Se" must be checked and the appropriate information for that litigant must be supplied in the spaces provided.

Attorney/Firm Name: KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP

Address: 1177 Avenue of the Americas

City: New York State: NY Zip: 10036 Telephone No: 212-715-9100

E-mail Address: mdell@kramerlevin.com

Attorney Type: ☒ Retained ☐ Assigned ☐ Government ☐ Pro Se ☐ Pro Hac Vice

Party or Parties Represented (set forth party number(s) from table above): 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

Attorney/Firm Name: New York State Office of the Attorney General

Address: 28 Liberty Street

City: New York State: NY Zip: 10005 Telephone No: 212-416-8632

E-mail Address: anjali.bhat@ag.ny.gov

Attorney Type: ☐ Retained ☐ Assigned ☒ Government ☐ Pro Se ☐ Pro Hac Vice

Party or Parties Represented (set forth party number(s) from table above): 11

Attorney/Firm Name: New York City Law Department

Address: 100 Church Street

City: New York State: NY Zip: 10007 Telephone No: 212-356-2082

E-mail Address: jpines@law.nyc.gov

Attorney Type: ☐ Retained ☐ Assigned ☒ Government ☐ Pro Se ☐ Pro Hac Vice

Party or Parties Represented (set forth party number(s) from table above): 12,13,14

Attorney/Firm Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip: Telephone No:

E-mail Address:

Attorney Type: ☐ Retained ☐ Assigned ☐ Government ☐ Pro Se ☐ Pro Hac Vice

Party or Parties Represented (set forth party number(s) from table above):

Attorney/Firm Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip: Telephone No:

E-mail Address:

Attorney Type: ☐ Retained ☐ Assigned ☐ Government ☐ Pro Se ☐ Pro Hac Vice

Party or Parties Represented (set forth party number(s) from table above):

Attorney/Firm Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip: Telephone No:

E-mail Address:

Attorney Type: ☐ Retained ☐ Assigned ☐ Government ☐ Pro Se ☐ Pro Hac Vice

Party or Parties Represented (set forth party number(s) from table above):

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

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NEW YORK COUNTY LAWYERS	:	
ASSOCIATION, BRONX COUNTY BAR	:	
ASSOCIATION, BROOKLYN BAR	:	Index No. 156916/2021
ASSOCIATION, QUEENS COUNTY BAR	:	
ASSOCIATION, RICHMOND COUNTY BAR	:	Hon. Lisa S. Headley
ASSOCIATION, ASSIGNED COUNSEL	:	
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE, INC.	:	
(ACA-NYS, INC.), METROPOLITAN BLACK	:	<u>NOTICE OF ENTRY</u>
BAR ASSOCIATION, MACON B. ALLEN	:	
BLACK BAR ASSOCIATION, LATINO	:	
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENS	:	
COUNTY, and ASIAN AMERICAN BAR	:	
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK,	:	
	:	
Plaintiffs,	:	
	:	
-against-	:	
	:	
THE STATE OF NEW YORK, THE CITY OF	:	
NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY	:	
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, and SHERIF	:	
SOLIMAN, in his official capacity as	:	
Commissioner of the New York City Department	:	
of Finance,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	
	:	

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Decision and Order, a true and correct copy of which is attached, was duly entered in the within named Court on July 25, 2022.

Dated: New York, New York
July 26, 2022

KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP

By: /s/ Michael J. Dell
Michael J. Dell
Jason M. Moff
Nathan Schwartzberg
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
Telephone: (212) 715-9100
Facsimile: (212) 715-8000
mdell@kramerlevin.com
jmoфф@kramerlevin.com
nschwartzberg@kramerlevin.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs New York County Lawyers Association,
Bronx County Bar Association, Brooklyn Bar Association,
Queens County Bar Association, Richmond County Bar
Association, Assigned Counsel Association of New York State,
Inc. (ACA-NYS, Inc.), Metropolitan Black Bar Association,
Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association, Latino Lawyers
Association of Queens County, and Asian American Bar
Association of New York*

To: Anjali Bhat
New York State Office of the Attorney General
28 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10005
Telephone: (212) 416-8632
anjali.bhat@ag.ny.gov

Attorney for Defendant The State of New York

Jonathan Pines
New York City Law Department
100 Church Street
New York, NY 10007
Telephone: (212) 356-2082
jpines@law.nyc.gov

*Attorney for Defendants The City of New York,
New York City Department of Finance, and
Sherif Soliman, in his official capacity as
Commissioner of the New York City Department
of Finance*

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK NEW YORK COUNTY

PRESENT: HON. LISA HEADLEY

PART

28M

Justice

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NEW YORK COUNTY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, BRONX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, QUEENS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, RICHMOND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, ASSIGNED COUNSEL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE, INC. (ACA-NYS, INC.), MACON B. ALLEN BLACK BAR ASSOCIATION, LATINO LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENS COUNTY, BROOKLYN BAR ASSOCIATION, METROPOLITAN BLACK BAR ASSOCIATION, ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK,

INDEX NO. 156916/2021MOTION DATE 04/21/2022MOTION SEQ. NO. 001

Plaintiff,

DECISION + ORDER ON MOTION

- v -

THE STATE OF NEW YORK, THE CITY OF NEW YORK,
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, SHERIF
SOLIMAN,

Defendant.

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The following e-filed documents, listed by NYSCEF document number (Motion 001) 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134

were read on this motion to/for PREL INJUNCTION/TEMP REST ORDR.

Before the Court is the Order to Show Cause filed by plaintiffs, the New York County Lawyers Association, Bronx County Bar Association, Queens County Bar Association, Richmond County Bar Association, Assigned Counsel Association of New York State, Inc., Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association, and Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County (hereinafter, "plaintiffs"), for a preliminary injunction to immediately compensate assigned counsel, who represent children and indigent adults in Family Court, Criminal Court and other court proceedings in New York City, in the amount of \$158.00 per hour. Defendants, the State of New York, The City of New York, New York City Department of Finance, and Sherif Soliman, in his official capacity as now-former Commissioner of the New York City Department of Finance (hereinafter, "defendants") filed opposition papers. Plaintiffs filed a reply.

On April 21, 2022, this Court held oral arguments on the Order to Show Cause, and present before this Court were the attorneys for plaintiffs, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP by counsels, Michael Dell, Esq., and Aaron Webman, Esq., the Attorney General for the State of New York by Assistant Attorney Generals, Anjali Bhat, Esq. and Charles Sanders, Esq. for defendant,

The State of New York, and Corporation Counsel by Assistant Corporation Counsel Jonathan Pines, Esq., for the City defendants.

In the Order to Show Cause, plaintiffs request that this Court issue an immediate preliminary injunction for defendants to set new rates for counsel at the rate of \$158.00 per hour. In support of their motion, the movant-plaintiffs argue that implementing the increase pay rate of assigned counsel from \$90.00 to \$158.00 would prevent the ongoing violation of the constitutional rights of children and indigent adults, so that these litigants could receive effective legal representation by assigned counsel in Family and Criminal Court proceedings at the trial and appellate levels in New York City. Plaintiffs rely on a prior ruling of this Court in 2002, in which a preliminary injunction for the similar issue at bar was granted. *See, New York County Lawyers' Ass'n v. State*, 192 Misc. 2d 424, 433 (Sup. Ct. 2002). Additionally, plaintiffs rely on a prior ruling, in 2003, in which this Court granted a permanent injunction against the State of New York and New York City. The Court ruled that the State and City of New York violated the New York State Constitution, as well as the United States Constitution for not increasing assigned counsel compensation, and the delays in such increase resulted in severe and irreparable harm to the due process rights of children and indigent adults. *New York County Lawyers' Ass'n v. State*, 196 Misc. 2d 761, 771-784 (Sup. Ct. 2003).

Plaintiffs also argue that defendants' failure to increase the hourly rates of assigned counsel since 2004 has caused the number of assigned counsel willing to take on cases to decrease. The decreased number of assigned counsel has led to an increased workload for the fewer assigned counsel in the program. Plaintiffs argue that the increased workload has directly caused assigned counsel to spend less time on tasks that are critical to effective representation. Plaintiffs further argue that a number of children and indigent adults are not receiving adequate legal representation, which directly violates their due process rights, liberty interests, and their right of having effective counsel at critical stages of the family and/or criminal law process. Furthermore, plaintiffs request that this Court follow precedent to end defendants' ongoing violation of the New York and the United States Constitution and to prevent the severe and irreparable injury children and indigent adults will face as a result of defendants' failure to increase compensation for assigned counsel.

In opposition, defendant (the State of New York) argues that the rate of compensation paid to assigned counsel is a budgetary issue, which lies in the discretion of the Legislative and Executive branches. Defendant (the State of New York) contends that the Executive and Legislative branches are currently in ongoing negotiations concerning compensation to assigned counsel. In addition, defendant argues that this Court should "refrain from intervening to avoid undermining the principle of separation of powers." In addition, defendant argues that co-plaintiffs Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association, the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County, and the Asian American Bar Association of New York have no direct standing in this matter. Furthermore, at oral argument, the State of New York defendant conceded that there is a necessity for an increased rate, and that the Governor does not even "oppose doubling the rates."

Also in opposition, defendants (the City of New York, the New York City Department of Finance, and Sherif Soliman in his official capacity as now-former Commissioner of DOF) contend that the State Legislature is engaged in ongoing discussions concerning the State's budget, and requests that this Court refrain from entering any Order that may interfere in the State Legislature's role in setting these rates. Additionally, the said defendants argue that delaying consideration of this matter is appropriate because plaintiffs have not established they will suffer irreparable harm in the absence of a preliminary injunction, and plaintiffs also fail to account for

the complex practical and political considerations that are part of determining a rate increase. Therefore, defendants (the City of New York, the New York City Department of Finance, and Sherif Soliman in his official capacity as now-former Commissioner of DOF) request that this Court deny plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction.

In reply, plaintiffs argue, *inter alia*, the defendant's argument that four plaintiff bar associations lack standing is erroneous. Plaintiffs argue that the State of New York defendant has waived this argument by failing to raise it in its Answer, and the four bar associations (Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association, the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County, and the Asian American Bar Association of New York) meet the requirements for third-party standing and organizational standing.

DISCUSSION

It is well settled that in order for a party to establish entitlement to a preliminary injunction, "a movant must establish a likelihood or probability of success on the merits, irreparable harm in the absence of an injunction, and a balance of the equities in favor of granting the injunction." *Stockley v. Gorelik*, 24 A.D. 3d 535, 536 (2d Dep't 2005). Movants must show that the irreparable injury is "material and actual for which monetary compensation is inadequate." *New York County Lawyers' Ass'n v. State*, 192 Misc. 2d 424, 433 (Sup. Ct. 2002). Additionally, "the determination to grant or deny a preliminary injunction rests in the sound discretion of the Supreme Court." *Coinmach Corp. v. Alley Pond Owners Corp.*, 25 A.D. 3d 642, 643 (2d Dep't 2006).

After oral argument, and upon examination of the motion papers, affirmations, affidavits and exhibits presented, this Court hereby grants plaintiffs' Order to Show Cause for interim injunctive relief to immediately compensate plaintiffs in the amount of \$158.00 per hour. This Court finds that plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction is equitable, as plaintiffs established a likelihood of success on the merits, that severe and irreparable harm to children and indigent adult litigants would occur without an injunction, and a balance of the equities favor in granting the injunction.

This Court finds that the defendants have not set forth sufficient evidence for this Court to stray from precedent. "Stare decisis, [is] a departure to be resorted to only with the greatest restraint." *Matter of Khotim*, 41 N.Y. 2d 845, 847 (1977). Here, plaintiffs established a likelihood of success on the merits by referencing the prior Court's decision to grant injunctive relief in 2003 regarding this similar issue at bar. In 2003, the Court held "[t]hese litigants suffer irreparable constitutional harm when they are denied their rights to counsel, when they are unrepresented during critical periods of their proceedings where their due process and liberty rights are at stake because no assigned counsel are available to represent them, when they are represented by overburdened and inattentive assigned counsel who fail to, or are unable to, perform the basic tasks necessary to provide meaningful and effective representation, and when they must endure prolonged delays in Family and Criminal Court proceedings." *See, New York County Lawyers' Ass'n v. State*, 196 Misc. 2d 76, 784 (Sup. Ct. 2003).

This Court further finds that, without implementing this preliminary injunction, children and indigent adults would suffer severe and irreparable harm that is "imminent, not remote or speculative." *White v. F.F. Thompson Health Sys., Inc.*, 75 A.D. 3d 1075, 1077 (4th Dep't 2010). Here, the plaintiffs have demonstrated that the quality of legal representation for children and indigent adults, as well as their due process rights would continue to decline without a preliminary injunction. The plaintiffs have demonstrated that such harm is neither remote nor speculative, as it is certain that a decrease in the number of assigned counsel leads to an already overburdened assigned attorney having to assume an increased workload. Furthermore, the plaintiffs have

established that the overburdened workload affects the quality and time an assigned counsel spends on each child litigant or indigent adult's case.

This Court also finds that a balance of the equities weighs in favor of granting injunctive relief because if such injunctive relief was not issued by this Court, the constitutional rights of children litigants and indigent adults would be violated. Said children and indigent adults would be subject to inadequate counsel, which would deprive them of the opportunity to have effective counsel in critical Family Court and Criminal Court proceedings. Furthermore, the interim injunctive relief would not interfere with defendants' inherent or constitutional rights. Pursuant to the injunctive relief, defendants would be required to increase compensation for assigned counsel, a responsibility that has been bestowed on them long before this Court's ruling.

In addition, this Court finds that the four bar associations and co-plaintiffs (Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association, the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County, and the Asian American Bar Association of New York) have standing in this case. Defendant (The State of New York) waived this argument, as they failed to include this defense in their Answer.

Inasmuch as the State of New York and the City of New York defendants contend that this matter is of paramount importance, we are again at the same point we were almost 20 years ago. It should also be noted that the State of New York defendant acknowledged, during oral argument, the necessity of increased compensation for assigned counsel. To avoid being in this position again, this Court hereby directs defendants (the State of New York and the City of New York) to revisit and consider an increase in salary for assigned counsel, who represent children and indigent adults in Family Court, Criminal Court and other court proceedings in New York City, at the same rate and at the same time the federal assigned counsel receive an increase in compensation.

Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that plaintiffs' Order to Show Cause seeking an interim preliminary injunction is GRANTED, and the defendants are directed to pay assigned counsel the interim rate of \$158.00 per hour; and it is further

ORDERED that the directed pay rate of \$158.00 per hour to assigned counsel is retroactive from February 2, 2022, the date plaintiffs' Order to Show Cause was filed; and it is further

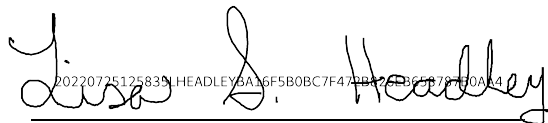
ORDERED that any requested relief sought not expressly addressed herein has nonetheless been considered; and it is further

ORDERED that within 30 days of entry, plaintiffs shall serve a copy of this Decision/Order upon the defendants with notice of entry.

This constitutes the Decision/Order of the Court.

7/25/2022

DATE



LISA HEADLEY, J.S.C.

CHECK ONE:

☐

CASE DISPOSED

☒

GRANTED

☐

DENIED

☒

NON-FINAL DISPOSITION

☐

GRANTED IN PART

☐

OTHER

APPLICATION:

☐

SETTLE ORDER

☐

SUBMIT ORDER

CHECK IF APPROPRIATE:

☐

INCLUDES TRANSFER/REASSIGN

☐

FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENT

☐

REFERENCE