

# *Chief Judge of the State of New York*



*Jonathan Lippman*

November 5, 2012

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Judicial and Non-Judicial Personnel,  
New York State Unified Court System

FROM: Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman & Chief Administrative Judge Gail  
Prudenti

SUBJECT: Hurricane Sandy

As one of the most historic and devastating storms to ever hit the Northeast region, Hurricane Sandy has impacted each and every one of us. Despite the incredible destruction we have encountered, New Yorkers are resilient, and our state and court family have already begun the difficult task of recovery. As you know, in addition to the massive impact the storm has had on us individually, it has also severely affected our court operations. Please be assured that we have been working around the clock to restore normal operations and ensure that we can continue to fulfill our core mission of serving the people of our state.

Despite the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Sandy last week, we witnessed members of our judicial and non-judicial staff go above and beyond – putting aside their personal hardships to ensure that the courts could function to the best of their ability. We want to express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all of those determined individuals whose extraordinary efforts and unwavering dedication have enabled the wheels of justice to turn even in this time of great adversity.

Throughout this past week, we have also heard tragic news from members of our court family who have lost everything, including their homes and all of their personal possessions, as a result of Sandy. We send our deepest sympathies and condolences to one of our Housing Court Judges, the Hon. Marcia Sikowitz, who lost her beloved son, Jacob Vogelmann, during the storm. Our hearts go out to all of those suffering and dealing with unthinkable loss at this difficult time. Relief for these members of our court family is a matter of the highest priority for all of us, and we are seeking assistance for them at both the local and national levels. We will update you on these efforts shortly.

We have never been more proud of our court family. Despite the many challenges we have encountered, our judges and non-judicial staff have exhibited unparalleled perseverance and commitment that is truly inspiring. Thank you for all that you do, and please know that your hard work does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. With the strength and dedication of the individuals who make up our court system, we will continue to persevere and overcome any challenges that may lie ahead.