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OF ERIE COUNTY

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July 21, 2025

*Via email*

Brielle Christian, Esq.,  
Senior Legislative Counsel for UCS  
[bchristian@nycourts.gov](mailto:bchristian@nycourts.gov)

Dear Attorney Christian:

The Bar Association of Erie County (“BAEC”) received the Memorandum from Deputy Chief Administrative Judge James P. Murphy seeking input on the realignment of Judicial Districts within the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. As noted in Judge Murphy’s Memorandum, the “bill alters the counties within the Fifth, Seventh, and Eighth Judicial Districts and creates the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Judicial Districts. Erie, Monroe and Onondaga counties will become single-county judicial districts, and the remaining 19 counties will be placed in two separate districts.” See <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/A8883>.

The BAEC unequivocally supports increasing the diversity of the judiciary. Such diversity is consistent with our mission, vision and values. However, after meeting and considering the legislation, the BAEC Board of Directors concluded and resolved not to support the legislation being signed into law at this time. The BAEC believes that this legislation raises unanswered questions, such as which districts should be impacted by any proposed adjustments, the number of judges allocated to each district, the caseloads in the affected districts, as well as the costs to the state and municipalities. Our members and community will be impacted by this legislation in ways we haven’t even had an opportunity to explore. These matters need more careful consideration. We hope the Governor will not sign this bill.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Brian M. Melber  
President

cc: Maura K. O’Donnell, Vice President  
Anne M. Noble, Executive Director