

BY: M. of A. Lavine

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 7-14, 2026, as Court Reporting and Captioning Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor the dedication and expertise of professionals whose work ensures the integrity, accuracy, and accessibility of the judicial record, safeguarding the rule of law and public confidence in the courts; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 7-14, 2026, as Court Reporting and Captioning Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Court Reporting and Captioning Week; and

WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners serve a vital role within the New York State Unified Court System (UCS), producing verbatim records of proceedings that are essential to appellate review, due process, judicial transparency, and public accountability; and

WHEREAS, Captioning professionals expand access to justice for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have other communication needs, in alignment with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), New York State Human Rights Law, and the judiciary's ongoing commitment to inclusive, equitable participation in the legal system; and

WHEREAS, New York State has been a national leader in integrating court reporting and captioning technology, including real-time transcription, digital access to records, and live remote captioning, which enhances accessibility, preserves accurate records, and ensures that all parties can participate fully in judicial proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Organizations such as the New York State Court Reporters Association (NYSCRA), the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), and professionals serving in courts administered by the Office of Court Administration (OCA) exemplify excellence in this field, providing mentorship, training, and leadership to ensure the highest standards of reporting and captioning throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners are critical to New York's judiciary not only for maintaining the accuracy of the official record but also for advancing access, equity, and public trust, serving as indispensable partners to judges, attorneys, and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing National Court Reporting and Captioning Week provides an opportunity to honor these dedicated professionals, highlight New York's historic leadership in accessibility and court reporting standards, and reaffirm the State's commitment to inclusive

and transparent justice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 7-14, 2026, as Court Reporting and Captioning Week in the State of New York, in recognition of the essential contributions of court reporters and captioners, their role in ensuring accurate and accessible judicial proceedings, and their leadership in advancing inclusive access to justice; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; the New York State Court Reporters Association; the Office of Court Administration; and the National Court Reporters Association, as a symbol of the respect, admiration, and gratitude of the State of New York for these critical professionals.