Assembly Resolution No. 1038

BY: M. of A. Lavine

MEMORIALIZING the Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 10, 2026, as International Day of Women Judges in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pause to recognize observances that promote justice, equality, and the rule of law, and to honor those whose service strengthens democratic institutions; 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 March 10, 2026, as International Day of Women Judges in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations General Assembly, by consensus resolution adopted in 2021, proclaimed March 10 of each year as the International Day of Women Judges, first observed worldwide in 2022, to recognize the critical role of women in judicial systems and to promote the full and equal participation of women at all levels of the judiciary; and

WHEREAS, The International Day of Women Judges highlights the importance of gender equality within courts and legal institutions and recognizes that women's representation in the judiciary enhances public confidence, strengthens accountability, and contributes to fair and inclusive decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Women judges bring diverse professional and lived experiences that enrich judicial deliberation, improve access to justice, and help ensure that courts reflect and serve the communities whose rights they safeguard; and

WHEREAS, Despite meaningful progress, women remain underrepresented in many judicial leadership positions around the world, underscoring the continued need to advance opportunities, mentorship, and equitable pathways within the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, The presence and leadership of women in judicial roles promotes transparency, integrity, and trust in legal systems, and inspires future generations to pursue careers dedicated to justice and public service; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York has long been a national leader in advancing equal justice under law and recognizes the invaluable contributions of women judges who serve with distinction across town and village courts, family courts, criminal and civil courts, the Supreme Court, appellate divisions, federal courts, and specialized tribunals, ensuring that justice is administered with fairness, impartiality, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Increased representation of women on the bench promotes public confidence in judicial institutions by ensuring that courts better reflect the diversity, experiences, and perspectives of the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, Studies and institutional experience demonstrate that diverse judicial leadership strengthens deliberation, enhances legitimacy, and improves access to justice, particularly for historically underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, New York has been home to pioneering women jurists whose leadership has advanced equal protection, civil rights, family law reform, and procedural fairness, inspiring generations of attorneys and public servants to pursue careers dedicated to justice; and

WHEREAS, Despite significant progress, women, particularly women of color, continue to face structural barriers within the legal profession and judiciary, underscoring the importance of mentorship, equitable appointment and election opportunities, and institutional support for professional advancement; and

WHEREAS, Observing International Day of Women Judges affirms New York's commitment to promoting gender equality, strengthening judicial independence, and supporting initiatives that encourage women and girls to pursue careers in law and public service; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the achievements of women judges also serves to honor their enduring contributions to fairness, accountability, and the continued evolution of a justice system that serves all people equally; and

WHEREAS, Observing International Day of Women Judges provides an opportunity to reaffirm a shared commitment to fairness, equal representation, and the continued strengthening of judicial institutions for the benefit of all people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 10, 2026, as International Day of Women Judges in the State of New York; 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, and judicial organizations, bar associations, and institutions dedicated to advancing equality and excellence within the judiciary.