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February 10, 2017

John W. McConnell, Esq.
Office of Court Administration
25 Beaver Street, 11th Fl.
New York, NY 10004

Dear Mr. McConnell:

As a New York City Council Member and lifelong civil rights activist, I am writing to voice my unequivocal support for the proposed continuing legal education (CLE) requirement for diversity, inclusion, and the elimination of bias.

I work closely with attorneys on a variety of matters of local and, in some cases, national import. Some of the issues my office has played a key role in include launching IDNYC, a municipal identification card available to all city residents 14 years of age and older; expanding the city's demographic data collection around ethnicity/ancestry, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and hiring the first lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning liaison in the New York City Department of Education.

Given the impact of measures passed by the Council and other legislative bodies, it is critical that attorneys who work on drafting and shepherding bills through the process are trained on the importance of diversity, inclusion, and the elimination of bias. The same is true for executive-branch attorneys who are responsible for the implementation of the law. I hope that the CLE requirement will encourage all of these attorneys to expand their knowledge and then respond with appropriate sensitivity.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (718) 803-6373.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dromm", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Dromm
New York City Council Member, 25th District