



For Immediate Release  
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MODERN COURTS WELCOMES THE SENATE PASSAGE  
OF FAMILY COURT BILL

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New York, NY – The Fund for Modern Courts congratulates the New York State Senate for addressing one of Family Court's most pressing problems -- the lack of adequate judgeships. The Senate's vote to pass S.5968 (Senator Sampson) providing twenty-one new Family Courts judges throughout New York State was urgently needed to help keep families and children safe.

Victor A. Kovner, Chair of the Fund for Modern Courts, said, "The Senate's vote last night to create twenty one new family court judges confirms the Senate's commitment to ensuring access to justice for New York's families. We are deeply appreciative that Senators from both parties acted in the best interests of New York families. As our Family Court Task Force Report found in 2008, the caseloads of New York's Family Court judges, and the disparity between Family Court caseloads and dockets in other courts, are unconscionable and unsustainable. We look forward to the Assembly's swift action on the bill and the Governor signing it into law. "

Modern Courts worked with the New York State Coalition for More Family Court Judges to ensure passage of this bill. The Coalition is made up of over forty organizations dedicated to improving the Family Courts throughout the state.

William C. Silverman, a member of the Board of Modern Courts and a founding member of the Coalition said, "The lack of a sufficient number of Family Court judges to adequately handle the tremendous volume of cases directly threatens the safety and stability of thousands of families and children. We applaud the Senate for addressing this critical problem."

Founded in 1955, Modern Courts is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, statewide organization dedicated to improving the courts in New York State through advocacy, public education and in-court programming.

For additional information about Modern Courts and to find our Family Court Task Force Report please go to [www.moderncourts.org](http://www.moderncourts.org)

