



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPREME COURT

Chambers of
CHASE T. ROGERS
Chief Justice

May 15, 2017

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: 860-757-2120

The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions III
Attorney General
The United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary of Homeland Security
United States Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Attorney General Sessions and Secretary Kelly:

As Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, I write to respectfully request that you designate public areas of state courthouses as "sensitive locations" pursuant to your Policy 10029.2 and not have Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers take custody of individuals inside the public areas of our state courthouses.

I am fully cognizant of the authority that ICE officers have to detain someone, and we are in full compliance with federal law regarding detainer requests for the surrender of defendants held in custody. However, it is of great concern when they take custody of individuals in the public areas of our courthouses. As you know, the judiciary relies on the public's trust and confidence to fulfill its constitutional and statutory obligations. We also rely on the public to comply with court orders and to show up in court when summoned to appear. I believe that having ICE officers detain individuals in public areas of our courthouses may cause litigants, witnesses and interested parties to view our courthouses as places to avoid, rather than as institutions of fair and impartial justice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would be happy to speak with you or a designee regarding this matter at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chase T. Rogers".

Chase T. Rogers
Chief Justice