



**NEW YORK STATE**  
**Unified Court System**

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

LAWRENCE K. MARKS  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

JOHN W. MCCONNELL, ESQ.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 10, 2020

**NOTICE TO ALL PRESIDENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS  
OF BAR ASSOCIATIONS IN NEW YORK STATE**

Re: New York Courts Emergency Alert Portal

Dear Bar Association President/Executive Director:

I am writing to notify you about an important change in the manner in which the New York State Unified Court System sends out emergency notifications about our courts. Significant numbers of attorneys throughout the state are signed up to receive our alerts and rely on our notifications to know when there is an emergency court closing.

Effective January 30, 2020, the Court System has initiated a new system -- the New York Courts Emergency Alert Portal ("Portal") -- to send out notifications about court closures and other UCS emergencies. The new Portal is hosted by NYAlert, a state public notification platform with a well-established record of reliable performance, and will replace Twitter notifications. Among other new features, the Portal will allow users to receive information about specific counties of their choosing, and to select their preferred method of notification (text, phone and/or email). Attorneys who are currently registered for Twitter announcement will need to register for the Portal at [www.nycourts.gov/alerts/](http://www.nycourts.gov/alerts/).

During a brief transition period, we will be sending out alerts through both Twitter and the Portal. We anticipate discontinuing use of Twitter for emergency alerts on or about March 15, 2020.

If you or your members have any questions on this subject, please contact Barbara Zahler-Gringer of my office at: [NYCourtAlert@nycourts.gov](mailto:NYCourtAlert@nycourts.gov).

Please share this information with your membership in any manner you deem appropriate. And as always, thank you for your kind assistance.

Very truly yours,

John W. McConnell