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# TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters



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Trustee

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Trustee

**RAMON D. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT**

1300 W. Higgins Rd. • Suite 301 • Park Ridge, Illinois 60068 • 847-939-9700

February 20, 2025

Via email to: [Yvette.loizon@cookcountysao.org](mailto:Yvette.loizon@cookcountysao.org); [garvin.ambrose@cookcountysao.org](mailto:garvin.ambrose@cookcountysao.org); [Donald.black@cookcountysao.org](mailto:Donald.black@cookcountysao.org); [cristin.duffy@cookcountysao.org](mailto:cristin.duffy@cookcountysao.org); [anna.demacopoulos@cookcountysao.org](mailto:anna.demacopoulos@cookcountysao.org);

Via certified mail to:

State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke  
Office of the Cook County State's Attorney  
69 W. Washington, Ste. 3200  
Chicago, IL 60602

Madame State's Attorney:

Please be advised that Teamsters Local 700 has filed a representation petition with the Illinois Labor Relations Board requesting to be certified as the representative for all Assistant State's Attorneys.

Cook County has long compensated Assistant State's Attorneys—who enforce the laws of this State and advocate for victims of crime—less than Defense Attorneys who provide free defense to the accused. This inequity has caused a brain drain of legal expertise, hindered the State's ability to combat the scourge of crime that blights our community, and denied the people of Illinois the legal representation necessary to enforce the rule of law. But when you ran for office, it appeared that the tide had turned and that the scales of justice would soon return to balance. But it seems such perceptions were wrong.

In your campaign, you promised that should a majority wish, you would recognize the Assistant State's Attorneys' Union—but this pledge remains unfulfilled. We have twice informed you of the majority's desire to be represented by Teamsters Local 700, but you have yet to recognize our union. It is troubling that you appear to be attempting to silence those who have *made a career out of being a voice for the voiceless*. But if we will not be silent when advocating for victims, why should we *be silent when advocating for ourselves*? And so, we have requested the Illinois Labor Relations Board certify our Union.

We urge your office to honor your commitment to voluntarily recognize the Assistant State's Attorneys' Union and not waste taxpayer resources to deny them equal treatment.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Laura Leahy*  
Laura Leahy  
Assistant General Counsel  
Teamsters Local 700