December 18, 1939.

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman,
Governor of the State of New York,
Albany, New York:

Dear Sir:

I am informed that a vacancy exists in the Court of General Sessions in the Borough of Manhattan to which many persons, especially women, urge the appointment of Magistrate Anna M. Kross. Her public career and her record on the Bench give evidence that she possesses the qualifications most essential to an ideal administration of this high office.

I have never forgotten the startling revelation made some years ago. Wyoming gave the vote to women in 1869. In the years following, when those Western states were sparcely settled, criminals escaped justice in the East by hiding in those states and crime raged everywhere. Wyoming put women on juries and appointed women magistrates with the result that Wyoming not only stood at the head of all the Western States and criminals did not go where women were to be found on juries, but the condition of purification continued and in 1900, when an investigation was made, it was found that Wyoming stood at the head of the whole United States in the enforcement of its laws for order and anti-criminality.

In our own State of New York, the election booths bear little comparison of those which existed before women voted and other evidences are numerous that the presence of women, among men, has a civilizing influence. New York is making a hard fight to clean out its criminality and near criminality. Why not give the women a fair opportunity to contribute their great influence to this mighty task?

I hear women say that you have been a satisfactory governor in every respect but one and that is, that you have not given due recognition to the women of the State. I do not know whether that is true or not. I think you have been a great governor and I am one of your loyal admirers; nevertheless, this is a way in which I sincerely believe you could give a further push to civilization and help the world onward.

I believe Magistrate Kross to be worthy of the promotion and, from this point of view, she is a better appointment than any man could be.

Very truly yours,

Carrie Chapman Catt

CCC: HW.