

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 1:48 PM
To: 'dlombardo@dailygazette.net'
Subject: Citizen Challenge to Judiciary Budget, Exposes the Sham of NY's Budget Process & the Hoax of its New Transparency

Citizen Challenge to Judiciary Budget, Exposes the Sham of NY's Budget Process & the Hoax of its New Transparency

Dear Dave,

Following up our lengthy conversation – for which I thank you -- below is the e-mail I sent yesterday to the Legislature's General Conference Committee – and its Joint Budget Subcommittee on "Public Protection", Criminal Justice, and the Judiciary. It summarizes the MAJOR story I described to you, established by:

- (1) the video of my 10-minute testimony on February 6, 2013 at the Legislature's joint budget hearing on "Public Protection"; and
- (2) my March 11, 2013 letter to the Senate Budget Subcommittee for "Public Protection" – Senators Nozzolio, Gallivan, Ball, and Golden – now each members of the Joint Subcommittee for "Public Protection", Criminal Justice, and the Judiciary.

Both are posted on our website, www.judgewatch.org, on the page devoted to "The People Fight Back: Securing Legislative Oversight & Override of the 2nd & 3rd phases of the judicial pay raises..." Here's the direct link: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/legislative-oversight-judicial-raises.htm> .

As discussed, the "White", "Blue", and "Yellow" books of the Legislature each give different figures as to the dollar amount requested by the Judiciary's budget, with the "Green" book giving no figure. The Governor's "Commentary" to the Judiciary budget gives an approximation: "\$2.6 billion". As stated at page 10 of my March 11th letter, this is "a rounded figure able to conceal many tens of millions of dollars: a veritable slush fund..."

Your investigation and reporting of this scandalous story can achieve MAJOR good-government reform for the People of this State. I look forward to assisting you, to the fullest.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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P.S. As I briefly described, there is also a BIG story to be written about the Legislature's budget – whose appropriations are on the same Governor's bill as the Judiciary's. Where is the Legislature's "General State Charges"? – these being "fringe benefits", i.e. pension, health, social security, etc. See my post-hearing correspondence with the Secretary of the Senate & Assembly Public Info Office on the Legislature's budget, posted on the "Securing Legislative Oversight & Override..." webpage.