

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 11:26 AM
To: 'financechair@nysenate.gov'; 'wamchair@nyassembly.gov'
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Subject: Request to Testify at the Legislature's Jan. 29, 2019 and Feb. 11, 2019 Joint Budget Hearings -- plus request as to the referred-to constitutional provisions concerning budget approval by April 1st

TO: Mitzi Hart/Senate Finance Committee
Clinton Freeman/Assembly Ways & Means Committee

This follows up my telephone calls to you yesterday, requesting to testify at the Legislature's January 29, 2019 budget hearing on "public protection" and February 11, 2019 budget hearing on "local government officials/general government", which you stated I must put in writing. I hereby do so, so that I may publicly testify as to the unconstitutionality and unlawfulness of the whole of the budget, including its unconstitutional inclusion of policy which the Legislature's budget hearings, organized by "programmatic areas", rather than by budget bills, enables.

My testimony will also address the following "appropriation bills": (1) Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.1501/A.2001; (2) State Operations Budget Bill #S.1500/A.2000 – appropriations for Attorney General, Comptroller, Commission on Judicial Conduct, JCOPE, Office of the Inspector General; and (3) and Aid to Localities Budget Bill #S.1503/A.2003 – "grants to counties for district attorney salaries".

This request to testify is pursuant to Legislative Law §32-a – and I once again object to the Legislature's subverting such statute by combining budget hearings pursuant thereto with those mandated by Article VII, §3 of the New York State Constitution and Legislative Law §31 – especially when its net result, if not its reason, is to limit and exclude public testimony. In that connection I take this opportunity to object to the reduction of time for witness testimony to five minutes – with witnesses who are members of the public relegated to the end, if time permits.

Indeed, a propos of the sentence in the January 15, 2019 announcement of the joint budget hearings: **"Due to time constraints related to provisions of the New York State Constitution concerning the approval of the state budget by April 1st, only a limited number of witnesses can be accommodated at any given hearing", please advise as to what are the specific "provisions of the New York State Constitution" being referred-to.**

Thank you.

Elena Ruth Sassower, Director
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