

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: ellen chorba [ellenchorba@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2011 6:26 PM
To: elena@judgewatch.org
Subject: Fwd: Please VOTE NO to Injustice and Discrimination!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ellen chorba** <ellenchorba@gmail.com>
 Date: Wed, Aug 24, 2011 at 10:26 AM
 Subject: Please VOTE NO to Injustice and Discrimination!
 To: contact@judicialcompensation.ny.gov, bonacic@nysenate.gov, jdefranc@nysenate.gov, dilan@nysenate.gov, espailla@nysenate.gov, gianaris@nysenate.gov, lavalle@nysenate.gov, little@nysenate.gov, nozzolio@nysenate.gov, omara@nysenate.gov, saland@nysenate.gov, squadron@nysenate.gov, zeldin@nysenate.gov, eadams@senate.state.ny.us, breslin@senate.state.ny.us, flanagan@senate.state.ny.us, fuschill@senate.state.ny.us, hassell@senate.state.ny.us, lkrueger@senate.state.ny.us, lanza@senate.state.ny.us, perkins@senate.state.ny.us, ranz@senate.state.ny.us, serrano@senate.state.ny.us, stavisky@senate.state.ny.us, carlucci@nysenate.gov, skelos@nysenate.gov
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Good Morning Members of the NYS Special Commission on Judicial Compensation and Ladies and Gentleman of the NYS Senate Judiciary Committee:

Earlier this year, budget cuts implemented by the State of New York for the fiscal year 2011/2012 slashed \$170 million from Unified Court System.

Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman directed that \$100 million dollars be cut by eliminating, among other services, courthouse child care centers, grants for town and village courts and a program that pays retired judges to work part time as judicial hearing officers.

The Unified Court System was left with the task of finding ways to cut the additional **\$70 million dollars in spending.**

In an article dated March 2011, Lippman is quoted as follows: *"What is clear is this will be painful by any standards," he said. "There will be more more spending cuts, layoffs and hardship that anticipated. It will have a tremendous impact on the system."*

The same article reports: *"It's too early, Lippman said, to know the number of court employees will lose their jobs, but he said that every kind of court employee will be targeted for reductions."* (emphasis added)

Fast forward to August 2011.

The Unified Court System is asking the NYS Commission on Judicial Compensation to approve raises for 1200 Judges that will amount to well OVER \$70 million dollars and FOIL documents confirm that Administrative Judges were directed to exempt specific employees from the Workforce Reduction Plan.

WHEREAS, the Workforce Reduction Plan undertaken by the New York State Unified Court system has **discriminated** against every employee not directly assigned to work specifically for one of the 1200 elected New York State Judge.

WHEREAS, less that two months after hundreds of employees were devastated by the reduction in workforce, Chief Administrative Judge Ann Pfau is asking the NYS Judges Commission on Judicial Compensation to grant 1200 elected New York State Judges raises of up to 62%.

THEREFORE, I respectfully request that the NYS Special Commission on Judicial Compensation **DENY any proposed salary increase that does not first reinstate the hundreds of employees** affected by the Reduction in Workforce implemented by the NYS Unified Court System.

Very truly yours,

ELLEN CHORBA
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