

Center for Judicial Accountability

From: Center for Judicial Accountability <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2013 8:06 PM
To: 'elynam@cbcny.org'
Subject: Serving the Governor, Legislature & Public by Expert Opinion on the Judiciary's Proposed Budget & on CJA's Proposed Budget Review Procedures
Attachments: 12-11-13-letter-to-governor-legislature.pdf

Dear Ms. Lynam,

Thank you for your return call.

As discussed, kindly read my December 11th letter to the Governor and Legislature. It not only summarizes the unconstitutionality of the Judiciary's proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015, but sets forth (at pp. 5-6) a procedure for the Legislature's review of the Judiciary's proposed budget that "implements key concepts of both the majority and minority reports of the 2009 Temporary Senate Committee on Rules and Administration Reform" (at p. 7). Indeed, and as stated by the letter, the proposed procedure:

"could and should be reasonably adapted for [the Legislature's] review of the huge Executive budget, accomplished by activating the 70-plus Senate and Assembly Committees to each engage in numbers-crunching, budget oversight hearings of the agencies and government services within their jurisdiction." (at pp. 7-8).

The Citizens Budget Commission, which has long advocated fiscal responsibility and budget reform – and you, who testified before the Temporary Senate Committee on Rules and Administration Reform at its February 26, 2009 public hearing <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/rules-reform-resource-page-senate.htm> – now have a powerful opportunity to make budget reform a reality by furnishing expert opinion to the Governor and Legislature not only on our constitutional arguments with respect to the Judiciary's proposed budget, but on our suggested review procedure and its adaptation to other aspects of the Executive budget.

After you read the letter, I believe you will agree – and be eager to continue our conversation in furtherance of what the Citizens Budget Commission states about itself:

"Throughout its history, CBC has continually weighed in on relevant and pressing issues surrounding the City's and State's budget and finances and has acted as a credible and reliable voice for responsible and effective public policy."

Certainly, too, I believe you will recognize that determination of CBC's role with respect to the December 11th letter belongs to CBC's trustees – most specifically, its "Budget Policy Committee", which, according to the CBC website, "reviews the annual city and state budgets and develops policy positions on the proposed and adopted budgets." Obviously, the state budget includes the Judiciary budget.

Although the December 11th letter is attached, it is actually best reviewed from our website, www.judgewatch.org, where it is posted with its corroborating March 13, 2013 enclosure and all substantiating documentation, including the pertinent constitutional and legal authorities. Here's the direct link: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/dec-11-2013-letter.htm>.

Again, I thank you. As time is of the essence, your response, before Christmas, would be greatly appreciated.

Elena Sassower, Director
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