

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 4:32 PM
To: mcurley@nysenate.gov; kaminsky@nysenate.gov
Cc: jordan@nysenate.gov; marchione@nysenate.gov
Subject: D.A. Salaries & Reimbursement to the Counties: Request for Emergency Meeting of Senate Committee on Local Gov't: RE: CJA's Jan 30th testimony -- & 10th cause of action in citizen-taxpayer action
Attachments: 2-6-17-ltr-to-leadership-with-enclosures.pdf

TO: Marie Curley, Legislative Director to Senator Kaminsky/Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Local Government & Member/Senate Codes Committee; Senate Judiciary Committee; & Senate Finance Committee

Following up our phone conversation a short time ago, for which I thank you, below is the e-mail I sent to Assembly Codes Committee Chair Lentol's office right before I telephoned Senator Kaminsky's office and spoke with you. There must be IMMEDIATE committee oversight – and the counties, which each lost approximately \$30,000 last year and will lose another \$30,000 this year, plus additional sums because of the upcoming judicial salary increase embedded in the fiscal year 2017-2018 Judiciary budget, have a right to expect that the Senate Committee on Local Government and the Assembly Committee on Local Governments will do their share to address the D.A. salary-reimbursement issue.

An emergency meeting of the Senate Committee on Local Government must be scheduled for the express purpose of discussing my testimony at the Legislature's January 30th budget hearing relating to the \$4,212,000 D.A. salary reimbursement item in the Aid to Localities budget bill, with a vote by the members as to their obligations with respect thereto. This is what I am requesting from Ranking Member Kaminsky, as likewise from Chair Marchione, who was present for my January 30th testimony.

I am available to answer questions – and would welcome the opportunity to do so under oath before the Senate Committee on Local Government – or any other legislative committee or commission.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 2:32 PM
To: 'peakec@nyassembly.gov' <peakec@nyassembly.gov>; 'lavignajesmainj@nyassembly.gov' <lavignajesmainj@nyassembly.gov>; 'salvind@nyassembly.gov' <salvind@nyassembly.gov>; 'LentolJ@nyassembly.gov' <LentolJ@nyassembly.gov>

Subject: Letter to Leadership: (1) Legislative Law Article 5-A Commissions on Gov't Administration & State-Local Relations; (2) requested meetings to prevent repeat of constitutional, statutory, & legislative rule violations re: fiscal year 2017-18 budget

TO: Cathy Peake/Chief of Staff-Legislative Director to Assemblyman Joseph Lentol/Chair-Assembly Codes Committee & Member-Assembly Ways & Means Committee

Jayne LaVigna-Jesmain/Counsel to Assemblyman Lentol
Daniel Salvin/Assistant Secretary for Program & Policy

In the event my below February 6th e-mail, sent to the generic e-mail address for Assemblyman Lentol, got lost in the deluge of e-mails your office receives, I am now resending it to your direct e-mails so that it can be addressed, as expeditiously as possible – including by the scheduling of an emergency meeting of the Assembly Codes Committee for discussion and vote by the members as to their obligations with respect to my testimony at the January 30th and January 31st budget hearings, the video of which should be viewed by each and every member. There must be an oversight hearing into the operations and job performance of New York's district attorneys, their judicially-linked salaries, and the Division of Criminal Justice Services' budget, in the Aid to Localities budget bill, seeking \$4,212,000 for district attorney salary reimbursement to the counties. Such is also germane to the question – being considered by the Assembly and Senate Codes Committees, as likewise by the Assembly and Senate Judiciary Committees, as to whether to establish a Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct, as to which a June 8, 2016 forum was held – without findings of fact or conclusions of law as to the testimony and evidence presented and available. Be advised that CJA has much to contribute on the subject. Indeed, on October 14, 2016, I filed a conflict-of-interest/misconduct complaint against ALL New York's district attorneys with New York's eight disciplinary committees – explicitly testing the accuracy of their claims, at the June 8, 2016 forum, that the attorney disciplinary committees are adequate enforcers of district attorney adherence to ethical rules of professional responsibility. Such complaint was based on the district attorneys' flagrant violation of conflict of interest rules with respect to the evidentiary proof furnished to them that the two commission reports, raising judicial salaries, on which their district attorney salary increases rest – are "false instruments", violative of numerous provisions of the penal law that is their duty to enforce. It is to this that I referred at the end of my testimony at the January 30th budget hearing on "Local government officials/general government".

The direct link to CJA's website, posting the attached February 6th letter – and the VIDEOS of my testimony at the January 30th and January 31st budget hearings -- is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/new-year.htm>. CJA's menu webpage for the October 14, 2016 conflict-of-interest/misconduct complaint against New York's district attorneys, pertaining to the judicial and district attorney pay raises, is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/budget-2016-17/menu-10-14-16-complaint-vs-soares-etc.htm>. Suffice to note that the October 14, 2016 complaint designates the pertinent committees and commissions of the Legislature as recipients – which, by this e-mail, I now begin to furnish to the Legislature for the first time.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
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Subject: Letter to Leadership: (1) Legislative Law Article 5-A Commissions on Gov't Administration & State-Local Relations; (2) requested meetings to prevent repeat of constitutional, statutory, & legislative rule violations re: fiscal year 2017-18 budget

Attached is the Center for Judicial Accountability's letter of today's date, addressed to you – or indicating you as a recipient.

It is already posted on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible *via* the prominent homepage link "2017 Legislative Session". Here is that webpage, directly: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/new-year.htm> -- on which is also posted the VIDEOS of my January 30th and January 31st testimony at the Legislature's budget hearings on "Local Government Officials/General Government" and "Public Protection".

Thank you.

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