

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 4:00 PM
To: karen.mattison@budget.ny.gov
Cc: 'budgetdirector@budget.ny.gov'
Subject: Waiting to Hear from You: What Review Does the Division of Budget Do of the Judiciary Budget, etc.?

TO: Susan Knapp, Chief Budget Examiner

This memorializes my several phone calls, beginning last Friday, February 1st and continuing Monday, February 4th and today, February 5th, requesting to speak with you about the Judiciary's budget. I understand that you head the unit whose responsibilities include the Judiciary's budget.

Each time I have called I have been told by your secretary, Karen Mattison, that you are at a meeting. Ms. Mattison has confirmed, however, that she did forward to you the e-mail I had sent for you on Friday, February 1st: these being CJA's letters of that date to the Governor and to the Comptroller and Attorney General, to which Budget Director Megna was an indicated recipient.

Although I have requested to speak with your deputy or such other staff as you might designate about the Judiciary budget, if you are unavailable, Ms. Mattison told me, when I called again this morning, that "due to the sensitivity of the matter", I could only speak to you.

It is now nearly 4 pm – and I have received no call from you. As I am testifying tomorrow at the Senate and Assembly joint hearing on "public protection", please call me without further delay; or delegate such call to an associate; or respond, by e-mail. My questions, which I identified to Ms. Mattison, include the following:

- (1) What critical review does the Division of Budget actually do of the Judiciary budget?
- (2) The dollar amount of this year's second phase of the judicial salary increase. Where, if at all, is it identified in this year's Judiciary budget? Last year's budget identified the dollar amount for the first phase of the judicial salary increase as \$27.7 million. Such appeared in the Executive Summary, but where, additionally in that budget?
- (3) The dollar amount for "compensation and non-salary benefits" for state-paid judges and justices of the unified court system, excluding salary. Where does this figure appear in the Judiciary's budgets for this year and last?
- (4) The "single budget bill" that the Judiciary submitted for the budgets this year and last – these being identified in the November 30, 2012 and November 30, 2011 letters transmitting the budget of "General State Charges".

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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