



*New York State
Unified Court System
25 Beaver Street
New York, New York 10004*

*A. Gail Prudenti
Chief Administrative Judge*

212-428-2120

December 1, 2014

To: Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo Honorable Sheldon Silver
 Honorable Dean G. Skelos Honorable Jeffrey D. Klein
 Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins Honorable Brian M. Kolb
 Honorable John DeFrancisco Honorable Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
 Honorable Liz Krueger Honorable Robert C. Oaks
 Honorable John J. Bonacic Honorable Helene E. Weinstein

From: A. Gail Prudenti

I respectfully submit the itemized estimates of the annual financial needs of the Judiciary for the Fiscal Year beginning April 1, 2015. Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution requires the submission of these estimates to the Governor and legislative leaders on or before December 1, 2014.

The 2015-16 General Fund State Operations budget request totals \$1.86 billion, a cash increase of \$45.3 million, or 2.5 percent, over available current-year funds. After five years of essentially flat budgets from 2009-10 to 2013-14, the 2014-15 enacted budget was a step toward ameliorating the harm caused by the no-growth budgets while also addressing cost increases. In 2015-16, the Judiciary will again face significant cost increases including mandatory salary increases for represented nonjudicial employees and contractual security increases. In addition, this budget reflects new and annualized costs for 25 Family Court judgeships authorized during 2014 and City Court judgeships authorized in 2013.

To meet these costs and our constitutional duty to maintain service to the public, it is necessary for the Judiciary to seek an increase in the 2015-16 budget. The proposed budget would allow the courts to maintain their current staffing levels, and fill a limited number of positions that are critical to operations. Funds would also be used to ensure that courtrooms can remain open to the public until 5 p.m. each day. Additional funds are also requested for civil legal services to ensure that the most vulnerable New Yorkers are not without counsel in cases involving the essentials of life.

Exhibit 2-a