

## Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 3, 2020 4:26 PM  
**To:** 'vandervo@nysenate.gov'  
**Cc:** 'may@nysenate.gov'; 'zelif@nysenate.gov'  
**Subject:** Senator May's S5519 establishing "a nonpartisan Division of Research & Analysis within the Legislative Law Library"-- & the Senate Committee on Investigations & Government Operations to which it was referred last year and this year.  
**Attachments:** 2-19-18-written-testimony-with-questions-24pp-compressed.pdf

**TO: Eric van der Vort, Legislative Director to Senator Rachel May**

Following our phone conversation a short time ago, for which I thank you, below, with the above attachment, is my March 4, 2019 e-mail to the Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations – germane to what I was explaining to you as to matters about which Senator May's colleagues should have apprised her – and bearing on her sponsorship of S.5519 to establish "a nonpartisan Division of Research and Analysis within the Legislative Law Library to provide research and analytical support for members of both houses of the legislature".

As discussed, such investigative/analytical staff resources need to be vested in each of the legislative committees, which are largely sham – a situation not substantially changed from the what was described by the 2004, 2006, and 2008 Brennan Center Reports – and by the 2009 report(s) of the Temporary Senate Committee on Rules & Administrative Reform of which now Temporary Senate President Andrea Stewart-Cousins was a member – and to which now Senate Finance Chair Liz Krueger participated. Here's CJA's Rules Reform Resource webpage posting the three Brennan Center Reports: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/rules-reform-resource-page.htm> & CJA's webpage for the Temporary Senate Committee on Rules and Administration Reform: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/rules-reform-resource-page-senate.htm>.

As I mentioned, the Brennan Center reports (& 2009 Temporary Senate Committee) did not examine the budget – and CJA's citizen-taxpayer action is, therefore, a companion to them. My significant testimony on November 30, 2018 before the Committee on Legislative and Executive Compensation about both the Brennan Center reports and the citizen-taxpayer action is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/force-of-law-commissions/part-hhh-chapter59-laws-2018/cja-testimony-11-30-18.htm>.

All the unconstitutionality, lawlessness and fraud described by my below March 4, 2019 e-mail and its attachment – and which I briefly described to you – have continued, unabated – indeed, have worsened. This includes with respect to the Legislature's OWN budget for fiscal year 2020-21 and the Governor's Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.7501/A.9502.

More to follow.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2019 1:54 PM



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**Subject: Agenda Request for the Next Meeting of the Senate Committee on Investigations & Government Operations:  
The Legislature's OWN budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 & the Governor's Budget Bill #S.1501/A.2001**

**TO: Senate Committee on Investigations & Government Operations**

Senator James Skoufis/Chair  
Senator Christopher Jacobs, Esq./Ranking Member  
Senator Alessandra Biaggi, Esq.  
Senator Luis Sepulveda, Esq.  
Senator Todd Kaminsky, Esq.  
Senator Andrew Lanza, Esq.  
Senator David Carlucci

What is the status of your investigations of my January 10, 2019 e-mail, setting forth the “problem” of government dysfunction and corruption, affecting all three government branches – and its “solution” – which I sent to every member of the Committee on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and then supplemented, on January 24<sup>th</sup>, with an e-mail entitled “OVERSIGHT OF SENATE & ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP – Willful Violations of Legislative Law Article 5-A and Article 5-B Rendering the 14 Joint Legislative Commissions Sham”.

For your convenience, these three e-mails are posted on CJA’s website, [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org), accessible via the center link for the “2019 Legislative Session”. This leads to a menu of webpages, including for the Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations. The direct link is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2019-legislative/2019-senate-comm-investig-govt-ops.htm>.

As a further supplement for the Committee’s investigation into government operations – beginning with the Legislature’s **own** operations, attached is my February 19, 2019 written testimony submitted for the Legislature’s February 11, 2019 budget hearing on “local government officials/general government”. It appends a list of 27 QUESTIONS about the Legislature’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 and Governor Cuomo’s Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.1501/A.2001 and requests that the Legislature’s fiscal committees secure answers from former Temporary Senate President Flanagan, Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Heastie. Will the Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations – two of whose seven members sit on the Senate Finance Committee – endorse this request? Or will it answer the 27 QUESTIONS, on its own – and make the answers public? This would include QUESTIONS ##10-15 pertaining to the role of the Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations and of the Assembly Committee on Governmental Operations in compiling the Legislature’s “itemized estimates” of its “financial needs” – including of all committees and legislator offices. **By this e-mail, I request that such be placed on the agenda of the Committee’s next meeting for discussion and vote.**

For the convenience of all, the 27 QUESTIONS about the Legislature’s proposed budget, etc. are most easily accessed from CJA’s webpage for the February 19, 2019 written testimony, here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2019-legislative/feb-19-2019-written-testimony.htm>, which additionally posts links for the referred-to budget documents for fiscal year 2019-2020.



I am available to assist you, to the max, in discharging your constitutional responsibilities to the People of the State of New York. Such are not remotely discharged by the Committee's first three meetings of the 2019 legislative session – on January 14<sup>th</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and February 27<sup>th</sup> – the videos and agendas for which the Committee posts on its own website: <https://www.nysenate.gov/committees/investigations-and-government-operations> – which touts the Committee as “Proactively investigating and exposing waste, fraud, and abuse; working to exercise effective oversight over our state government.”

Thank you.

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