

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 12:43 PM
To: 'financechair@nysenate.gov'; 'lkrueger@nysenate.gov'; 'usher@nysenate.gov'; 'seward@nysenate.gov'; 'davie@nysenate.gov'; 'wamchair@nyassembly.gov'; 'WeinstH@nyassembly.gov'; 'ancowitzr@nyassembly.gov'; 'beavers@nyassembly.gov'; 'castels@nyassembly.gov'; 'BarclaW@nyassembly.gov'; 'herricks@nyassembly.gov'; 'engelk@nyassembly.gov'; 'skypej@nyassembly.gov'; 'oharel@nyassembly.gov'
Cc: 'rae@nyassembly.gov'; 'derocht@nyassembly.gov'
Subject: STATUS: CJA's Feb. 19, 2019 written testimony & questions for Chief Administrative Judge Marks, Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins & Assembly Speaker Heastie, ETC.
Attachments: 2-19-19-written-testimony-with-questions-24pp-compressed.pdf

TO: **Senate Finance Committee Chair Liz Krueger**
Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member James Seward

Assembly Ways & Means Committee Chair Helene Weinstein, Esq.
Former Assembly Ways & Means Committee Ranking Member/Now Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, Esq.

This follows my phone calls to your office and conversations with your staff a short time ago pertaining to my below March 1, 2019 e-mail to you, entitled "AGENDA: Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #1501/A.2001 -- & the Questions to be Answered by Chief Administrative Judge Marks & by Temporary Senate Presidents Stewart-Cousins/Flanagan & Assembly Speaker Heastie", to which I received no response.

Please advise what investigation you undertook to verify the accuracy of my above-attached February 19, 2019 written testimony, including the answers to the two sets of questions it appended pertaining to the Judiciary and Legislative budgets for fiscal year 2019-2020. Please also advise whether, as my March 1, 2019 e-mail requested, you furnished my February 19, 2019 written testimony, with questions, to the members of the Senate Finance Committee and Assembly Ways and Means Committee, as I understood you would do and as I requested. Also, please explain why, on the Assembly's website, my written testimony was not posted with other written testimony submitted for the February 11, 2019 budget hearing on "Local Government Officials/General Government":

http://nystateassembly.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=4928, in contrast to its posting on the Senate's website for that hearing: <https://www.nysenate.gov/calendar/public-hearings/february-11-2019/joint-legislative-public-hearing-2019-2020-executive>.

Suffice to say, the corruption and larceny of taxpayer monies therein summarized and particularized has ALL continued, unabated – indeed, has only worsened. This includes as to the Judiciary and Legislative budgets for fiscal year 2020-2021 and Governor Cuomo's Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.7501/A.9501.

By the way, what are the dates of the Senate Finance Committee and Assembly Ways and Means Committee meetings at which Committee members will be amending the Governor's budget bills consistent with Article VII, §4 which reads:

"The legislature may not alter an appropriation bill submitted by the governor except to strike out or reduce items therein, but it may add thereto items of appropriation provided that such additions are stated separately and distinctly from the original items of the bill and refer each to a single object or

purpose. None of the restrictions of this section, however, shall apply to appropriations for the legislature or judiciary.

Such an appropriation bill shall when passed by both houses be a law immediately without further action by the governor, except that appropriations for the legislature and judiciary and separate items added to the governor's bills by the legislature shall be subject to approval of the governor as provided in section 7 of article IV."

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 9:10 AM

To: 'financechair@nysenate.gov' <financechair@nysenate.gov>; 'lkrueger@nysenate.gov' <lkrueger@nysenate.gov>; 'usher@nysenate.gov' <usher@nysenate.gov>; 'cburke@nysenate.gov' <cburke@nysenate.gov>; 'seward@nysenate.gov' <seward@nysenate.gov>; 'davie@nysenate.gov' <davie@nysenate.gov>; 'wamchair@nyassembly.gov' <wamchair@nyassembly.gov>; 'WeinstH@nyassembly.gov' <WeinstH@nyassembly.gov>; 'ancowitzr@nyassembly.gov' <ancowitzr@nyassembly.gov>; 'beavers@nyassembly.gov' <beavers@nyassembly.gov>; 'BarclaW@nyassembly.gov' <BarclaW@nyassembly.gov>; 'herricks@nyassembly.gov' <herricks@nyassembly.gov>

Subject: AGENDA: Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #1501/A.2001 -- & the Questions to be Answered by Chief Administrative Judge Marks & by Temporary Senate Presidents Stewart-Cousins/Flanagan & Assembly Speaker Heastie

TO: Senate Finance Committee
Chair Liz Krueger
Ranking Member James Seward
Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Chair Helene Weinstein, ESQ.
Ranking Member William Barclay, ESQ.

At the Senate Finance Committee's first meeting of this 2019 Legislative Session – on February 26, 2019, called from "off the floor" – Chair Krueger announced "we don't have any bills before us today", but, rather, "two nominees proposed by the Governor for consideration" – <https://www.nysenate.gov/calendar/meetings/finance/february-26-2019/finance-meeting>.

This was most surprising – as both the Senate Finance Committee and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee have had the Governor's budget bills since January 15, 2019, the day he introduced them. Why has neither Committee been holding meetings for its members to discuss, amend, and vote on the Governor's budget bills, consistent with Article VII, §§ 1-7 of the New York State Constitution?

This is to request that you place the Governor's Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.1501/A.2001 on the agendas of the Committees' next meetings – and, with it, the Center for Judicial Accountability's above attached February 19, 2019 written testimony pertaining thereto, submitted for the Committees' February 11, 2019 budget hearing on "local government officials/general government" – and appending two sets of "QUESTIONS":

- (1) 41 “QUESTIONS FOR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE LAWRENCE MARKS” pertaining to the Judiciary’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the Governor’s Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.1501/A.2001;
- (2) 27 “QUESTIONS FOR FORMER TEMPORARY SENATE PRESIDENT JOHN FLANAGAN, & ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CARL HEASTIE, & FOR TEMPORARY SENATE PRESIDENT ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS” pertaining to the Legislature’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the Governor’s Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.1501/A.2001.

Are there any of the 41 “QUESTIONS” that you believe Chief Administrative Judge Marks should not be answering? How about the 27 “QUESTIONS” for the Legislature’s presiding officers? Will you, as the Committees’ leaders, individually or collectively, send the “QUESTIONS” to them for answers – and, if not, will you allow the Committees’ members to discuss and vote on whether, each Committee, by a majority, and on its letterhead, shall do so?

For your convenience, CJA’s webpage on which the February 19, 2019 written testimony is posted, with links to the substantiating EVIDENTIARY PROOF, is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2019-legislative/feb-19-2019-written-testimony.htm>.

I am ready to assist you, to the max, in discharging your constitutional responsibilities to protect the People of the State of New York from unconstitutionality, unlawfulness, and fraud in Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.1501/A.2001. I would happily appear before the Committees, under oath, to answer members’ questions and make an EVIDENTIARY presentation.

Finally, as I have received no confirmation from your staff that CJA’s February 19, 2019 written testimony was distributed to the Committees’ members, as I understood it would be, please confirm that this was done, or that it will be immediately done – as otherwise I will forward it to them myself.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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