

From: elena@judgewatch.org
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2026 10:16 AM
To: 'bottcher@nysenate.gov'; 'zellner@nysenate.gov';
'morenod@nyassembly.gov'; 'powersk@nyassembly.gov'
Subject: **Discharging the Duties of Your New Offices: the FY2026-27 legislative & judiciary budgets, the Gov's Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.9001/A.10001, Etc.**

Attachments: [1-28-26-questions-for-stewart-cousins-heastie.pdf](#)

TO: The Legislature's New Specially-Elected Members

[Senator Erik Bottcher](#)/succeeding Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Esq.

[Senator Jeremy Zellner](#)/succeeding Senator Sean Ryan, Esq.

[Assemblywoman Diana Moreno](#)/succeeding Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani

[Assemblyman Keith Powers](#)/succeeding Assemblyman Harvey Epstein, Esq.

Six days before the February 3rd special elections at which you won your legislative seats, I sent Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie the above-attached 40 questions about the Legislature's own FY2026-27 budget and the legislative portions of Governor Hochul's Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.9001/A.10001 by the below January 28th e-mail – and then again twice when I forwarded it to all the [Senate's then 61 members](#) and all the [Assembly's then 148 members](#) (& [here](#)) by e-mails identically stating:

“Above-attached, for you to each answer, in discharge of the duties of your offices, is CJA's memo of today's date, sent to Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie, by the below.” (underlining in the original).

I received no responses – and so-stated this by [written testimony for the Legislature's February 11th budget hearing on “local government officials/general government”](#) (at p. 3).

I also [sent to all Senate](#) and [Assembly members](#), other than yourselves, February 12th e-mails attaching questions about the Judiciary's FY2026-27 budget and the judiciary portions of the Governor's FY2026-27 Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.9001/A.1001 and linking to my [written testimony for that day's “public protection” budget hearing](#). Again, I received no responses.

In the event your legislative colleagues did not share these two sets of e-mails with you – and they were not discussed in the Legislature's closed-door party conferences that substitute for open committee meetings – you have them now.

It would be my pleasure to assist you in discharging the duties of your new offices – and I invite you to call me with your questions.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgewatch.org

From: elena@judgewatch.org <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 12:04 PM
To: 'scousins@nyenate.gov' <scousins@nyenate.gov>; 'Speaker@nyassembly.gov' <Speaker@nyassembly.gov>

Subject: Questions about the Legislature's FY2026-27 Budget & the Legislative Portions of the Governor's Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.9001/A.10001

TO: [Temporary Senate President Andrea Stewart-Cousins](#)
[Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie](#)

Above-attached is CJA's memo to you of today's date with questions for you to answer, culminating in question #40, asking:

“Would you be willing to publicly give your answers to the above questions pertaining to the Legislature's FY2026-27 budget and Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.9001/A.10001 at a legislative hearing on the Legislature's own budget and, if not, why?” (underlining in the original).

Inasmuch as I have, for years, furnished you with comparable, if not identical, questions, you should be able to readily respond.

Thank you.

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