

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 12:32 PM
To: paternol@assembly.state.ny.us
Cc: buchwaldd@assembly.state.ny.us; weisfeldd@assembly.state.ny.us; roithmayra@assembly.state.ny.us
Subject: Judiciary Budget -- A Slush Fund as the Dollar Figures Would Show
Attachments: 3-11-13-ltr-to-sen-budget-subcommittee-public-protection.pdf; 2-15-13-note-to-buchwald.pdf

TO: Lauren Paterno, Legislative Director to Assemblyman Buchwald

Following up our phone conversation a short time ago, attached is the letter I sent yesterday. Kindly read it and bring to Assemblyman Buchwald's attention IMMEDIATELY. It sums up much of what I stated to Chief of Staff Dan Weissfeld, when I met with him on Monday, March 4th, in the absence of Assemblyman Buchwald, who I understood was in Albany, hard at work on the budget – and with whom I spoke briefly, by phone, on February 15th, while en route to his office to drop off the documentary materials I had handed up when I testified before the Legislature, on February 6th, at its joint budget hearing on “Public Protection”. A copy of the note that I had written to the Assemblyman, when I dropped off the materials on February 15th, is annexed. The direct link to the video of the February 6th hearing with my testimony, posted on our website, is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/legislative-oversight-judicial-raises.htm>.

What I did not discuss with Dan on March 4th is what appears at pages 10-11 of the March 11th letter, identifying that the Judiciary has concealed the total dollar amount it is actually requesting for the Judiciary budget. It has also concealed the total dollar amount of its “single budget bill”, embodied by the Governor's appropriation bill—S2601; A3001. As stated at page 10, it appears to be “a veritable slush fund”.

Please get me these two figures by the end of the day – or as soon as possible.

I am most concerned that the documentary materials I dropped off on February 15th for Assemblyman Buchwald to review in substantiation of my February 6th testimony have not, as yet been reviewed by him – or perhaps by anyone else on his staff, etc. According to Alex Roithmayr, with whom I spoke before calling you, those materials are still in the district office – now moved to Mt. Kisco.

I had an excellent meeting on Friday, March 8th with Senator Latimer – with whom, additionally, I supplied a copy of those documentary materials. I suggest that Assemblyman Buchwald work together with Senator Latimer on this issue – a suggestion I discussed with both of them.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 3:25 PM
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Subject: Superseding Letter to Senate Budget Subcommittee on "Public Protection": ...Verifying the Dispositive Nature of the Opposition to the Judiciary Budget & its Judicial Salary Increase Request

The attached letter of today's date to the Chair & Members of the Senate Budget Committee on "Public Protection" – Senators Nozzolio, Ball, Gallivan, & Golden -- supersedes the letter sent on Friday, March 8th, as it makes SUBSTANTIVE additions. See, in particular, pages 10-13.

It is already posted on our website. Here's the direct link: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/legislative-oversight-judicial-raises.htm> .

Apologies for the inconvenience.

Thank you.

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