



New York State
Unified Court System

Office of Court Administration / Executive Office

Justin A. Barry, Esq.
Executive Director

February 2, 2024

Michael Pulizotto, Esq.
Chief Clerk VI

Elena Ruth Sassower
P.O. Box 8101
White Plains, NY 10602

Dear Ms. Sassower:

Your memorandum to Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas was referred to First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George for review¹. On behalf of First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George, I have been asked to respond.

Please be advised that all judges and nonjudicial staff of the New York State Unified Court System (UCS) are prohibited from giving legal advice, therefore, we are severely limited in responding to your email and memorandum. As a non-party or counsel to the matter you write about, you may wish to consult a licensed attorney to determine what, if any, legal processes may be available to you or the parties involved.

While you may generally submit a complaint alleging professional misconduct by an attorney to the appropriate Appellate Division grievance committee (I enclose a two-page information guide from <https://nycourts.gov> with mailing addresses for the committees), how an Appellate Division may require complainants to render their submissions is not a question properly posed to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. Under our state constitution and applicable statutes, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court is an independent appellate court over which the Chief Administrative Judge has no authority, whether administrative or judicial.

Lastly, under our state constitution and applicable statutes, the authority to investigate, determine and adjudicate complaints alleging judicial misconduct resides solely with the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct. You may direct any questions in this regard to an attorney or the Commission.

Sincerely,

Michael Pulizotto

Enclosure

¹ Your October 26, 2023 email to the attention of Chief Administrative Judge Zayas was similarly referred to me for response on behalf of First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George.

NYCOURTS.GOV

Attorney Grievance Committees

Complaints About Attorneys

Attorney / Client Disputes

If you have a complaint against an attorney, you may contact the Attorney Disciplinary / Grievance Committee. The office you need to contact depends upon the location of your lawyer's office. Please note that the New York State Unified Court System **does not** have jurisdiction to investigate complaints concerning representation by attorneys.

- **First Judicial Department Attorney Grievance Committee**

- **New York & Bronx Counties**
Departmental Disciplinary Committee for the First Department
180 Maiden Lane
17th Floor
New York, NY 10038
(212) 401-0800

- **Second Judicial Department Attorney Grievance Committees**

- **Kings, Queens & Richmond Counties**
Grievance Committee for the Second, Eleventh, and Thirteenth Judicial Districts
Renaissance Plaza
335 Adams Street, Suite 2400
Brooklyn, NY 11201-3745
(718) 923-6300
- **Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland & Westchester Counties**
Grievance Committee for the Ninth Judicial District
399 Knollwood Road, Suite 200
White Plains, NY 10603
(914) 824-5070
- **Nassau & Suffolk Counties**
Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District
150 Motor Parkway, Suite 102
Hauppauge, NY 11788
(631) 231-3775

- **Third Judicial Department Attorney Grievance Committee**

- **Albany, Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Madison, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren & Washington Counties**
Attorney Grievance Committee

286 Washington Avenue Extension
Suite 200
Albany, New York 12203
(518) 285-8350

- **Fourth Judicial Department Attorney Grievance Committees**

- **Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga & Oswego Counties**
Grievance Committee for the Fifth Judicial District
Syracuse Square
224 Harrison Street, Suite 408
Syracuse, NY 13202-3066
(315) 401-3344
- **Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne & Yates Counties**
Grievance Committee for the Seventh Judicial District
Attorney Grievance Committee
50 East Avenue, Suite 404
Rochester, NY 14604-2206
(585) 530-3180
Fax: (585) 530-3191
- **Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genessee, Niagara, Orleans & Wyoming Counties**
Grievance Committee for the Eighth Judicial District
438 Main Street, Suite 800
Buffalo, NY 14202-3212
(716) 845-3630

Attorney/Client Fee Disputes

Part 137 of the Rules of the Chief Administrator establishes a statewide Attorney-Client Fee Dispute Resolution Program

Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

The Lawyers' Fund was established in 1982 to provide reimbursement to law clients who have lost money or property as a result of lawyer's dishonest conduct in the practice of law. The fund is a remedy for law clients who cannot get reimbursement from the lawyer who caused the loss, or from insurance or other sources.

For information on filing an application to recover funds, contact the New York Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection at 1-800-442-FUND or visit their website at www.nylawfund.org