

Center for Judicial Accountability

From: Center for Judicial Accountability <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 1:58 PM
To: 'SteckP@assembly.state.ny.us'
Subject: Thank you for your call -- & for your significant questioning about the Judiciary budget at the Legislature's February 5, 2014 joint budget hearing on "public protection", from which Assembly Judiciary Committee Chairwoman Weinstein was absent

Dear Assemblyman Steck,

Regrettably, the call dropped – as I myself realized even as you were kind enough to have your office director telephone to so-inform me.

I sincerely thank you for having called – and for the substantive conversation we were able to have about the Assembly Judiciary Committee's oversight jurisdiction over both the Judiciary and its budget. Here's the link to the Center for Judicial Accountability's webpage for my December 11, 2013 letter to, among others, Assemblywoman Weinstein, as Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, about the unconstitutionality and fraudulence of the Judiciary's proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015, which I was prevented from testifying about at the February 5, 2014 "public protection" hearing: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/dec-11-2013-letter.htm>.

The webpage contains all the substantiating constitutional and legal provisions and evidentiary proof referred-to by the letter. This includes: (1) the video of my testimony before Chairwoman Weinstein at the Legislature's February 6, 2013 "public protection" budget hearing; (2) the Brennan Center reports of 2004, 2006, 2008 about New York's MOST DYSFUNCTIONAL Legislature, whose committees are sham; and (3) the Assembly Judiciary Committee's 2012 Annual Report, which – in pertinent part states:

"The Judiciary Committee works closely with other committees of the Assembly, including...the Ways and Means Committee with which the Judiciary Committee shares budgetary oversight of the Office of Court Administration and the Department of Law."

As a member of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, it was Chairwoman Weinstein's duty to have informed you – and all other members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee – of the serious and substantial nature of my February 6, 2013 testimony in opposition to the Judiciary's budget for fiscal year 2013-2014, immediately following that testimony, and to have furnished to Assembly Judiciary Committee members the documentary materials I handed up for review in substantiation of that testimony. Likewise, upon her receipt of my serious and substantial December 11, 2013 letter pertaining to the Judiciary's budget for fiscal year 2014-2015, her duty was to have shared it with the members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, which she plainly did not do – as you knew nothing of it...

The sole enclosure to my December 11, 2013 letter was my March 11, 2013 letter which reiterated and elaborated upon my February 6, 2013 testimony. Kindly be sure to read it – as ALL the issues there particularized apply to the Judiciary's budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 – and it is essential follow-up to your exchange with Chief Administrative Judge Prudenti at the February 5, 2014 "public protection" hearing and her promised responses to you and other legislators.

As approximations in billion dollar budgets can easily conceal tens and hundreds of millions of dollars, I will shortly be furnishing you with an analysis of the Judiciary's deliberately elusive and misleading budget figures – as likewise those of the Governor, the Division of Budget, and the Legislature's own "White", "Blue", "Yellow", and "Green" Books. Suffice to note that the "Yellow Book" of the Assembly Democratic Majority – of which you are a member – gives the following cumulative total of the Judiciary's proposed budget (at p. 141):

“The Judiciary’s proposed budget request, as submitted to the Governor, recommends appropriations of \$2.73 billion, which is an increase of \$77.25 million or 2.9 percent from the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013-2014 level.”

An “Appropriations” table on that same page gives a more precise figure of “\$2,726,14 in millions”, representing a dollar change of “\$77.25 in millions” and a percentage change of “2.92%”. A “Disbursements” table gives a figure of “2,723.10 in millions”, representing a dollar change of “\$76.40 in millions” and a percentage change of “2.89%”.

I look forward to assisting you, to the fullest, in discharging your important duties as an Assembly Judiciary Committee member – and not only with respect to oversight of the Judiciary budget, but of the Judiciary, which the Assembly Judiciary Committee has NOT done for decades with respect to, *inter alia*, the Commission on Judicial Conduct & court-controlled attorney disciplinary system – and NOT done, perhaps ever, with respect to the Department of Law. Such nonfeasance has been in face of documentary proof of their corruption, including the dispositive case file evidence I personally furnished Chairwoman Weinstein nearly 20 years ago, including at an October 24, 1995 meeting, in her Albany Office with her various counsel . Here’s the link to the webpage of our website, posting the related correspondence from that period: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/correspondence-nys-assembly-jud-committee.htm>.

From these you can begin to glean that the egregious four-year delayed issuance of a judicial decision in an uncomplicated matter, which you not only raised with Chief Administrative Judge Prudenti at the February 5, 2014 “public protection” hearing, but with the Commission on Judicial Conduct’s Administrator, Robert Tembeckjian, is – with all respect – really small change against systemic corruption of our state’s Judiciary and safeguarding agencies and offices charged with enforcing standards of law and ethics. This is the Legislature’s constitutional duty to confront by the discharge of oversight by its Judiciary Committees, not to perpetuate by funding.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-455-4373