CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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BY E-MAIL

December 16, 2013

TO:

Robin Marilla, Records Access Officer

New York State Assembly

FROM:

Elena Ruth Sassower, Director

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

RE:

Where are the Legislature's Certifications & "Fringe Benefit Costs"

for Fiscal Year 2014-2015?

Thank you for your prompt response to my December 2, 2013 request pertaining to the Legislature's "Itemized estimates of the financial needs of the legislature, certified by the presiding officer of each house" for fiscal year 2014-2015, as required by Article VII, §1 of the New York State Constitution.

By way of follow-up to your December 6, 2013 letter, please advise whether the documents you furnished are posted or will be posted on the Assembly's website. As no certifications were included, please supply same, if such exist.

Also not included were the Legislature's "fringe benefit costs" for fiscal year 2014-2015. Do these exist in a separate document? In that regard, enclosed is Chief Administrative Judge Prudenti's November 29, 2013 memorandum to the Governor and Legislature, transmitting the Judiciary's "Itemized estimates" for fiscal year 2014-2015, identifying:

"the long-standing practice of the Executive and Legislative branches of <u>separately</u> presenting requests for funding of fringe benefit costs and requests for operating funds." (underlining added).

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Thank you.

Enclosure

En N-3



New York State Unified Court System 25 Beaver Street New York, New York 10004

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MEMORANDUM

November 29, 2013

To:

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo

Honorable Dean G. Skelos

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins Honorable Brian M. Kolb

Honorable John DeFrancisco

Honorable Liz Krueger

Honorable John J. Bonacic

Honorable Sheldon Silver

Honorable Jeffrey D. Klein

Honorable Herman D. Farrell, Jr.

Honorable Robert C. Oaks

Honorable Helene E. Weinstein

From:

A. Gail Prudenti

I respectfully submit the itemized estimates of the annual financial needs of the Judiciary for General State Charges for the Fiscal Year beginning April 1, 2014. Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution requires the submission of these estimates to the Governor and legislative leaders on or before December 1, 2013.

For the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year, the Judiciary is again submitting itemized estimates of funding for General State Charges necessary to pay the fringe benefits of judges, justices and nonjudicial employees separately from itemized estimates of the annual operating needs of the Judiciary. This presentation follows the long-standing practice of the Executive and Legislative Branches of separately presenting requests for funding of fringe benefit costs and requests for operating funds. The Judiciary will submit a single budget bill, which includes requests for funding for operating expenses and fringe benefit costs for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year.

AGP/bw