Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From:

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent:

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 8:48 AM

To:

'skerby@nycourts.gov'; 'Foil@nycourts.gov'

Subject:

FOIL/Records Request: Attorney Grievance Committee Annual Reports

TO: OCA FOIL-Records Access Officer/Assistant Deputy Counsel Shawn Kerby

Reference is made to the <u>Unified Court System's webpage for its eight attorney grievance committees</u>, run by the four <u>appellate divisions of the four judicial departments</u>.

Notwithstanding the <u>Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline's September 24, 2015 report</u> recommended greater uniformity – which the Appellate Divisions purported to implement by its <u>Part 1240 Rules for Attorney Disciplinary Matters</u> — the linked webpages for the attorney grievance committees of the four judicial departments are – excepting the now uniform names of the committees – as dissimilar to each other as they were then.

As in 2015, the <u>Second Department</u> and the <u>Third Department</u> do not post ANY annual reports of their attorney grievance committees. The <u>First Department</u> posts an archive of its annual reports, *to wit*, pdfs for each year spanning from 2002 to 2019. The <u>Fourth Department</u> features a webpage of what it represents as the current <u>"Annual Report"</u> for 2019 – but its content is a fraction of what comprises each of the First Department's annual reports, being essentially the appendix pages of "ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE ACTIVITIES" – form #UCS-176, which are statistics.

Therefore, pursuant to Public Officers Law VI and §124 of the Chief Administrator's Rules [FOIL], this is to request:

- (1) records of the Unified Court System's uniform requirements, if any, for the annual reports of the eight attorney grievance committees of its four judicial departments;
- (2) the annual reports of the Second, Third, and Fourth Department attorney grievance committees, from 2014 to 2020;
- (3) the annual report of the First Department attorney grievance committee for 2020 and, with respect to its 2019 Annual Report, the missing pages 72-73 these being its Appendix D, whose identification in the table of contents is "Annual Report to OCA", but which as reflected by prior annual reports, as for example for 2018 and 2017 is presumably "ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE ACTIVITIES" for 2019 form #UCS-176.

Thank you.

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