

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 3:29 PM
To: 'info@reinventalbany.org'; 'jkaehny@reinventalbany.org';
'acamarada@reinventalbany.org'
Subject: OPPORTUNITY/OBLIGATION -- citizen-taxpayer action: March 29, 2017 OSC for declaration of unconstitutionality & unlawfulness of NYS budget -- returnable April 28, 2017

TO: REINVENT ALBANY

John Kaehny, Executive Director
Alex Camarda, Senior Policy Consultant

Following up the voice mail I left for you this morning – to which I have not as yet received a call-back -- here's the link to the webpage of CJA's March 29, 2017 order to show cause for a preliminary injunction, with TRO, in our second citizen-taxpayer action challenging the constitutionality and lawfulness of the state budget: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/citizen-taxpayer-action/2016/9-2-16-osc-complaint/3-29-17-osc.htm>.

It will not take you long to review the March 29, 2017 order to show cause – and recognize its potential. For this reason, please call me after you review it so that I might have the benefit of your thoughts and judgment. I have no doubt that based on Article VII, §§4, 5, 6 of the New York State Constitution and the reinforcing Court of Appeals decisions in *Pataki v. Assembly & Senate/Silver v. Pataki*, 4 NY3d 75 (2004), and *New York State Bankers Association v. Wetzler*, 81 NY2d 98 (1993) – ALL posted on the webpage of the March 29, 2017 order to show cause – you will agree that the New York State budget is flagrantly “OFF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RAILS” and that the outcome of CJA's order to show cause – and of the second citizen-taxpayer action on which it rests – must be summary judgment for the plaintiffs, AS A MATTER OF LAW.

I invite Reinvent Albany to have “a piece of the action” by filing an *amicus curiae* brief and/or by making a motion to intervene so that it might contribute its wider perspective and achieve, through the lawsuit, adjudications of the constitutional and legal dimensions of its advocacy with respect to the budget – all blithely ignored by New York's governors and legislators. Certainly, Reinvent Albany also has a bully-pulpit and can easily issue press statements about the case, as well as reach out to its large network of media and academic contacts so that the case receives both the press coverage and substantive scholarship it deserves.

Reinvent Albany has a powerful opportunity, if not obligation, to play a leadership role here, for the benefit of ALL New Yorkers. The order to show cause for declarations of unconstitutionality and unlawfulness of the New York State budget is OPEN & SHUT – and WE WILL WIN!

Thank you, again.

Elena Sassower, Director
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