

## Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

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**From:** Finance Chair <FinanceChair@nysenate.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 12:03 PM  
**To:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.(CJA)  
**Subject:** Re: Request to Testify at the Legislature's Jan. 29, 2019 and Feb. 11, 2019 Joint Budget Hearings -- plus request as to the referred-to constitutional provisions concerning budget approval by April 1st  
**Attachments:** 2019 Joint Public Hearing Registration Form.19.pdf

Per your request, attached is the 2019 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing Witness Request Form. This form is intended ONLY for the person or entity requesting it. We must receive the completed form for you to be considered to testify.

We will confirm witness status 2 days before the hearing date. All witness testimony must be received 48 hours ahead of our hearing.

-----"Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.\(CJA\)" <elena@judgewidth.org> wrote: -----  
To: <financechair@nysenate.gov>, <wamchair@nyassembly.gov>  
From: "Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.\(CJA\)" <elena@judgewidth.org>  
Date: 01/18/2019 11:26AM  
Cc: <skoufis@nysenate.gov>, <mike\_2233@yahoo.com>, <carlosv845@gmail.com>, <goddard@nysenate.gov>  
Subject: Request to Testify at the Legislature's Jan. 29, 2019 and Feb. 11, 2019 Joint Budget Hearings -- plus request as to the referred-to constitutional provisions concerning budget approval by April 1st

**TO: Mitzi Hart/Senate Finance Committee**

**Clinton Freeman/Assembly Ways & Means Committee**

This follows up my telephone calls to you yesterday, requesting to testify at the Legislature's January 29, 2019 budget hearing on "public protection" and February 11, 2019 budget hearing on "local government officials/general government", which you stated I must put in writing. I hereby do so, so that I may publicly testify as to the unconstitutionality and unlawfulness of the whole of the budget, including its unconstitutional inclusion of policy which the Legislature's budget hearings, organized by "programmatic areas", rather than by budget bills, enables.

My testimony will also address the following "appropriation bills": (1) Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.1501/A.2001; (2) State Operations Budget Bill #S.1500/A.2000 – appropriations for Attorney General, Comptroller, Commission on Judicial Conduct, JCOPE, Office of the Inspector General; and (3) and Aid to Localities Budget Bill #S.1503/A.2003 – "grants to counties for district attorney salaries".

This request to testify is pursuant to Legislative Law §32-a – and I once again object to the Legislature’s subverting such statute by combining budget hearings pursuant thereto with those mandated by Article VII, §3 of the New York State Constitution and Legislative Law §31 – especially when its net result, if not its reason, is to limit and exclude public testimony. In that connection I take this opportunity to object to the reduction of time for witness testimony to five minutes – with witnesses who are members of the public relegated to the end, if time permits.

Indeed, a propos of the sentence in the January 15, 2019 announcement of the joint budget hearings: **“Due to time constraints related to provisions of the New York State Constitution concerning the approval of the state budget by April 1st, only a limited number of witnesses can be accommodated at any given hearing”,** please advise as to what are the specific “provisions of the New York State Constitution” being referred-to.

Thank you.

Elena Ruth Sassower, Director

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)

914-421-1200

**2019 JOINT BUDGET HEARING REQUEST SCHEDULING FORM**

**Please Check Below [Select One]:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Conservation [1/23] | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Services [1/24]       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education [1/28]           | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Protection [1/29]    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation [1/30]             | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing [2/4]               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce Development [2/4]       | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicaid [2/5]       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elem. & Secondary Education [2/6] | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Hygiene [2/7]        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Officials [2/11] | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development [2/12] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taxes [2/12]                      |  |

**Name of Person, Title and Organization Requesting to Testify:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT PERSON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**[If Additional Persons are Requesting to Testify For Your Organization as Part of This Request]:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Person & Title

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Person & Title

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Person & Title

**IMPORTANT NOTICE – PLEASE READ**

- At least **48** hours prior to the scheduled time of the hearing, please submit your written testimony to both [wamchair@nyassembly.gov](mailto:wamchair@nyassembly.gov) AND [financechair@nysenate.gov](mailto:financechair@nysenate.gov)
- In addition, **50 hard copies** of your written testimony ***MUST*** be submitted at the door on the day of the hearing.
- **THOSE TESTIFYING HAVE ONLY 5 MINUTES TOTAL Speaking Time. Please summarize your remarks and please don't simply read your written testimony at the hearing.**
- If you do not wish to testify in person, but wish to submit written testimony, please send an electronic copy to [wamchair@nyassembly.gov](mailto:wamchair@nyassembly.gov) AND [financechair@nysenate.gov](mailto:financechair@nysenate.gov) no later than **7 BUSINESS DAYS** after the Hearing has concluded.

**NO POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS ACCEPTED.**

**YOU WILL BE CONTACTED TWO DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED HEARING IF YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO TESTIFY.**