

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 2:56 PM
To: 'schwartzw@nyassembly.gov'
Cc: 'dinowij@nyassembly.gov'; 'salvind@nyassembly.gov'; 'ancowitzr@nyassembly.gov'; 'BirzonJ@nyassembly.gov'
Subject: Moving Ahead on Issues within the Assembly Judiciary Committee's Jurisdiction -- Preliminary to a Meeting with Chair Dinowitz

TO: William Schwartz, Legislative Director to Assemblyman Dinowitz – Chair/Assembly Judiciary Committee

This follows our phone conversations earlier today – and your request.

For simplicity – and to facilitate dialogue with “central staff”, with whom, I understood you to say, you would arrange for me to have a telephone conference after the holidays -- below are my October 27, 2017 e-mail and October 16, 2017 e-mail, each furnishing the LINK for CJA’s citizen-taxpayer actions, whose PLEADINGS particularize the unconstitutionality, statutory-violations, and fraud of the Judiciary’s slush-fund budgets, encompassing the judicial salary increases. These judicial salary increases are the product of two commission reports, as to which there has been NO oversight by the Assembly and Senate Judiciary Committees – or by any other committees of the Legislature. This has cost New York taxpayers, since April 1, 2012, probably \$300 million dollars, including the cost of statutorily-linked district attorney salary increases. The December 1, 2017 proposed judiciary budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 will add approximately \$70 million to that figure – on top of which, unless overridden by the Legislature, will be further salary increases of approximately \$10,000 per judge, effective April 1, 2018.

My below October 27th e-mail also furnishes the LINK to the VIDEOS of my testimony at the Legislature’s January 30, 2017 and January 31, 2017 budget hearings summarizing the situation – from which you can also access the VIDEO of my testimony at the Legislature’s February 6, 2013 budget hearing, when the monies paid out for the judicial/D.A. salary increases was under \$30 million.

Upon your reviewing same, I trust you will agree that you misspoke when you referred to what I had presented as “a bunch of accusations”. Indeed, here, directly, is the EVIDENCE with respect to the two commission reports: (1) the webpage for CJA’s October 27, 2011 opposition report to the August 29, 2011 report of the Commission on Judicial Compensation: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/opposition-report.htm>; and (2) the webpage for CJA’s January 15, 2016 letter to Temporary Senate President Flanagan and Assembly Speaker Heastie pertaining to the December 24, 2015 report of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/2015/jan-15-2016-ltr-to-leg-leaders.htm>.

I am cc’ing Daniel Salvin, Assistant Secretary for Program & Policy, and Richard Ancowitz, counsel – as you mentioned their names to me. I do not believe I ever spoke with Mr. Ancowitz. As for Mr. Salvin, I believe that several years ago I had one, possibly two, phone conversations with him. As you brought up their names, I assume they would be among the “central staff” with whom you would arrange a telephone conference for me. This is not a substitute for a meeting with Chair Dinowitz – but I am perfectly agreeable to same, preliminary to a meeting with Chair Dinowitz regarding the panoply of issues within the Assembly Judiciary Committee’s jurisdiction, particularized by my October 27th e-mail.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

914-421-1200

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]

Sent: Friday, October 27, 2017 12:20 PM

To: 'fitzpatrickb@nyassembly.gov' <fitzpatrickb@nyassembly.gov>; 'dinowij@nyassembly.gov' <dinowij@nyassembly.gov>

Subject: Request for a meeting to discuss the Assembly Judiciary Committee's discharge of its oversight responsibilities, whose ABSENCE underlies the citizen-taxpayer action about which I testified at the Legislature's January 30, 2017 budget hearing

TO: Brendan Fitzpatrick/Communications Director to Assembly Judiciary Committee Chair Jeffrey Dinowitz

Following up our phone conversation earlier this morning – and the voice mail message I left for Legislative Director William Schwartz -- this is to reiterate my request for a meeting with Assembly Judiciary Committee Chair Dinowitz, as soon as possible, pertaining to the citizen-taxpayer action: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/menu-budget-reform.htm>, to which my below October 16th e-mail and two-above attachments alerted him.

Among the specific issues I wish to discuss – all encompassed by the citizen-taxpayer action and within the express jurisdiction of the Assembly Judiciary Committee:

- (1) the corruption of the New York State Judiciary – and its slush-fund budget;
- (2) the corruption of the New York State Attorney General – and his Department of Law budget;
- (3) the corruption of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct – and the inadequacy of its budget;
- (4) the corruption of the New York State court-controlled attorney disciplinary system – and the inadequacy of its budgets;
- (5) the corruption of the New York State district attorneys, whose salaries are tied to judicial salaries;
- (6) the statutory-violative, fraudulent and unconstitutional judicial pay raises -- and district attorney pay raises based thereon -- resulting from the August 29, 2011 report of the Commission on Judicial Compensation and the December 24, 2015 report of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation – whose cost to the taxpayers has been concealed, but is believed to be approximately \$300 million since April 1, 2012.

Former Assembly Judiciary Committee Chair Helene Weinstein is fully knowledgeable of the foregoing corruption, but REFUSED to discharge ANY oversight throughout her 23-year tenure as chair – including by holding ANY hearings to take testimony from the public. Indeed, this is reflected by my testimony at the Legislature's January 30, 2017 budget hearing, whose VIDEO is posted on CJA's website, here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/budget-hearings.htm>. Although Chair Weinstein was NOT present when I testified on January 30, 2017 – nor the next day, at the January 31, 2017 budget hearing -- she was present when I testified at the Legislature's February 6, 2013 budget hearing. Chair Dinowitz should be sure to view the VIDEO of my February 6, 2013 testimony so that he can see the EVIDENTIARY PROOF I handed up in substantiation – and find out, from the now Ways and Means Committee Chair Weinstein, its whereabouts. Likewise, the whereabouts of the mountain of other EVIDENTIARY PROOF I furnished Assemblywoman Weinstein, as Judiciary Committee chair, since 1994.

I look forward to assisting Chair Dinowitz to the fullest in discharging the important duties of his Assembly Judiciary Committee chairmanship. As evidenced by the citizen-taxpayer action, the present situation, on so many fronts, is utterly unconstitutional.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 5:08 PM
To: 'fitzpatrickb@nyassembly.gov' <fitzpatrickb@nyassembly.gov>; 'dinowij@nyassembly.gov' <dinowij@nyassembly.gov>

Subject: Tomorrow's Closed-Door Democratic Assembly Conference Meeting -- & Assemblyman Buchwald's duty to furnish a long-overdue legal opinion on CJA's citizen-taxpayer action

TO: Brendan Fitzpatrick/Communications Director to Assembly Judiciary Committee Chair Jeffrey Dinowitz

As discussed, so very briefly. Is newly-appointed Assembly Judiciary Committee Chair Dinowitz aware of CJA's unfolding citizen-taxpayer action – and what's been going on with the judicial and district attorney pay raises? Here's the link: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/menu-budget-reform.htm>.

I am available to assist Chairman Dinowitz do his duty to set things right.

Thank you.

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