

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 3:41 PM
To: 'wamchair@nyassembly.gov'
Cc: 'financechair@nysenate.gov'
Subject: Completed Form: Request to Testify at the Legislature's Feb. 11, 2019 Joint Budget Hearing on "Local Gov't Officials/General Gov't" -- plus REITERATED request as to the referred-to constitutional provisions concerning budget approval by April 1st
Attachments: cja-completed-form-2-11-19-hearing.pdf

TO: Clinton Freeman/Assembly Ways & Means Committee (518-455-5462)

Attached is my completed form to testify at the Legislature's February 11, 2019 joint budget hearing on "local government officials/general government". What is the response to my informational request:

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

From: WAM Chair <wamchair@nyassembly.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 11:50 AM
To: 'Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)' <elena@judgewatch.org>
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

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.

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 11:26 AM
To: financechair@nysenate.gov; wamchair@nyassembly.gov
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
914-421-1200

2019 JOINT BUDGET HEARING REQUEST SCHEDULING FORM

Please Check Below [Select One]:

- ☐ Environmental Conservation [1/23]
- ☐ Higher Education [1/28]
- ☐ Transportation [1/30]
- ☐ Workforce Development [2/4]
- ☐ Elem. & Secondary Education [2/6]
- ☒ Local Government Officials [2/11]
- ☐ Taxes [2/12]

- ☐ Human Services [1/24]
- ☐ Public Protection [1/29]
- ☐ Housing [2/4]
- ☐ Health/Medicaid [2/5]
- ☐ Mental Hygiene [2/7]
- ☐ Economic Development [2/12]

Name of Person, Title and Organization Requesting to Testify:

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc

CONTACT PERSON:

Elena Sassower

Contact Phone #:

914-421-1200

Contact Email:

elena@judgewatch.org

Notes:

cell + texting to: 646-220-7982

[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 AND 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 AND 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.