

**From:** NYS Executive Chamber Records Access Office <governorny@govqa.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 10:39 AM  
**To:** elena@judgewatch.org  
**Subject:** FOIL Records Request :: R000292-120622



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
ALBANY 12224

Dear Elena Sassower:

This message acknowledges receipt of your request. Your request was received in this office on 11/28/2022 and given the reference number R000292-120622 for tracking purposes.

Records Requested: TO: FOIL/Record Access Officers for the Attorney General\*, Comptroller, Governor, Senate, Assembly, and Independent Review Committee Reference is made to the declaratory judgment action Gary Lavine v. State of New York, et al., Onondaga Co. #007623/2022, where, as yet, no appearance has been entered by the first defendant, State of New York, and, as to the other defendants:

- Temporary Senate President Andrea Stewart-Cousins is being represented by the law firm Hancock, Estabrook, LLP (#13);
- Governor Hochul is being represented by the law firm Phillips Lytle, LLP (#15, #19);
- Assembly Speaker Heastie is being represented by the law firm Harris Beach PLLC (#16, #17);
- the Independent Review Committee is being represented by the law firm Lippes Mathias, LLP (#20);
- Senate Minority Leader Robert Ort and Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay are being represented by the law firm Mackenzie Hughes LLP (#21, #22).

Pursuant to Public Officers Law Article VI (FOIL), Senate Rule XIV ("Freedom of Information"), and Assembly Rule VIII ("Public Access to Records"), this is to request all publicly-available records pertaining to: (1) Attorney General James' determination(s)/certification(s) that the legal interests of the Governor, Temporary Senate President, Assembly Speaker, and Independent Review Committee could not be adequately protected and represented by her and that it was appropriate that each retain separate outside counsel; (2) Attorney General James' determination(s)/certification(s) that the legal interests of the Senate Minority Leader and Assembly Minority Leader could not be adequately protected and represented by her and that it was appropriate that the two Minority Leaders be represented by a single outside counsel; (3) the process, if any, by which the various law firms were selected by the Governor, Temporary Senate President, Assembly Speaker, Independent Review Committee, and the Senate and Assembly Minority Leaders; (4) the contracts retaining these law firm; (5) Attorney General James' approvals of the contracts; (6) the Comptroller's approvals of the contracts; (7) payments made to the law firms pursuant to the contracts.

We will provide you with a status update on or before 12/27/2022.

You can monitor the progress of your request at the link below and you'll receive an email when your request has been completed.

New York State Executive Chamber Records Access Office

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the [Records Access Center](#)