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## News Center

*NYSBA membership gives you strong representation*



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Editor  
Letters to the Editor  
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Editor:

The *Times-Union* is to be commended for its prominent coverage of judicial discipline matters. The July 28, 2002 article by Andrew Tilghman is just one example.

We believe its important for your readers to know that next year's budget (\$2.2 million) for the Commission on Judicial Conduct is virtually the same as its budget for the 1988-89 fiscal year. With no constituency within the government to champion a much-needed increase, it is incumbent on others to make the case for additional funding for this necessary government agency.

The Commission on Judicial Conduct plays a vital role in ensuring that the judiciary administers our laws without favoritism, and without the undue influence of a political party or special interest group. As such, the Commission must remain independent of the political process and of the judiciary, if it is to fulfill its duty to the public.

The New York State Bar Association's Special Committee on Procedures for Judicial Discipline has recognized the budgetary constraints of the Commission as one of the most significant issues that needs to be addressed this year.

The success of our form of government depends to a significant extent on the competence, the integrity, and the independence of the judiciary. If we are to enhance respect for the judiciary, the Commission must be able to function effectively. The current budgetary constraints placed on this independent body are inconsistent with this objective.

A. Rene Hollyer Chair  
New York

John B. McBride, Member  
Albany