



## **ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

### **NOTICE OF ONLINE VIDEO PUBLIC HEARING**

**SUBJECT:** Budget and Staffing Reductions in the Judiciary Branch

**PURPOSE:** To examine the impact of proposed budget cuts on the court system in New York.

Thursday, November 12, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

<https://www.nyasembly.gov/av/live/>

### **ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY**

New York's court system is made up of 12 separate trial and appellate courts spread across more than 300 locations, in 62 counties. This includes Supreme, Family, Surrogate, District, City, County, Criminal, Housing, Appellate and specialty treatment courts such as Veteran Courts, Domestic Violence Courts, Human Trafficking Courts, Mental Health Courts, etc. Each year 3.5 million new cases are filed in the New York State court system. To meet the needs of the 19.5 million people in New York, the State Judiciary budget is approximately 3 billion dollars. The work is done by over 1,200 state judges, 2,400 town and village justices and 15,500 non-judicial employees. The budget for the New York State Judiciary includes 100 million dollars in funding for civil legal services, helping to close the gap in justice for many individuals across the State.

The most recent financial plan shows a proposed a ten percent reduction of the budget for the New York State court system for the present fiscal year. This hearing will examine the impact of this proposed reduction on individuals and businesses in our state as well as on litigants, court personnel and judges. Among the responses to this challenge by the Office of Court Administration (OCA) has been a determination not to recertify nearly all senior judges who could be authorized to continue in judicial service after age 70. The Committee is interested in testimony concerning this response by OCA, among all others.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of an emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five (5) minutes' duration. Witnesses are encouraged not to read their statements verbatim, but to instead summarize the key points raised therein. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in receiving testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

**Jeffrey Dinowitz**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**Chairman**  
**Committee on Judiciary**

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PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Testimony will only be taken upon approval by the Committee Chair. Individuals who have been invited to present testimony at the public hearing on the impact of proposed budget cuts on the court system in New York are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and email a copy of planned testimony. Individuals invited to participate will be notified within 48 hours of the hearing. All replies and testimony submissions must be emailed to:

Kerry Mierzwa  
Associate Counsel  
Assembly Committee on Judiciary  
Email: Mierzwak@nyassembly.gov  
Phone: (518) 455-4313

- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing on the impact of the proposed budget cuts on the court system in New York to be conducted by the Assembly Judiciary Committee on Thursday, November 12, 2020. My statement will be limited to 5 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise.
  
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
  
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
  
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
  
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ALL INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_