



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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November 21, 2018

### VIA E-MAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

Hon. Mark Neary  
Clerk of the Supreme Court  
Comments on Proposed Disciplinary Budget  
Hughes Justice Complex; P.O. Box 970  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0970

Re: Comments on 2019 Proposed Disciplinary Budget

Dear Mr. Neary:

Thank you for the additional information contained in your November 13 letter in connection with the 2019 budget for the attorney disciplinary system proposed by the Disciplinary Oversight Committee (DOC). The New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) appreciates the opportunity afforded by the Court in extending the time to submit these comments.

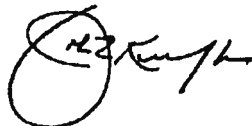
As always, the NJSBA extends its gratitude to the members of the DOC for their dedication and service to the Supreme Court and bar in monitoring the budget and operations of our disciplinary system. They are to be commended for the time and effort they devote on behalf of the entire New Jersey bar.

In addition, the NJSBA is pleased that no increase is recommended for this year in the current annual assessment paid by attorneys. The NJSBA agrees that no increase is warranted, given the current amount of reserves; however, the association continues to be concerned about the somewhat dire predictions of how quickly those reserves will be spent down. Even with the additional information provided, it is still unclear how it is anticipated that more than \$2.5 million will be spent out of reserves in three years, by the end of 2021.

The NJSBA understands that expense forecasts may be difficult given the various factors that are considered when making those forecasts. We appreciate the Court's willingness to take active steps to improve the accuracy of those forecasts, as it is important that any budgetary decisions are made relying on the best information possible. In addition, the NJSBA urges the Court to work with the DOC to find cost-saving measures to limit, or eliminate, the need for deficit spending in the future so that a healthy amount of the reserves can be preserved.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to be an active part of this process. The NJSBA stands ready to assist the Court and the DOC in any way possible to ensure that our disciplinary system remains fiscally sound.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Keefe Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John E. Keefe Jr.  
President

/sab

cc: Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D., Acting Administrative Director, AOC  
Steven D. Bonville, Esq., Chief of Staff, AOC  
Evelyn Padin, Esq., President-Elect, NJSBA  
Angela C. Scheck, Executive Director, NJSBA