

Dear Colleagues around the State.

As you may know, the issue of a compensation increase has been put on the table.

Even before the Parental Representation Commission Report and Letter in Support by Chief Judge DiFiore, the below described organization has been working to have the rates increased. Through our efforts, both Assemblyman Lentol and Senator Jamaal Bailey have sponsored budget letters that highlight issues and request the Assembly and Senate Majorities raise our compensation to \$150 with a COLA.

Subsequent to the budget letters, the Commission report and the Letter from Judge DiFiore has similarly asked that the compensation be increased to deal with the crisis in courts throughout the State.

Now is the time to be involved to help make this happen this Budget Year.

We encourage you to write to the following thanking them or asking for their support.

We encourage you to thank Chief Judge Janet DiFiore who wrote a letter requesting an increase to the Governor, Senate and Assembly leaders. See attached letter from Judge DiFiore.

You should encourage your representatives to lend their support by either asking to sign the budget letter or express their support to Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins or to Assembly Majority Leader Heastie. The letters are available internally to each representative.

We encourage you to thank them even if you're not in the district.

Time is of the essence, since the NYS Senate and Assembly will shortly publish their budget proposals of what the NYS Budget should be for the upcoming fiscal year in April.

See below for a Sample Email or Letters.

Thank you.

ACA-NYS (Assigned Counsel Association-NYS) ***

***ACA-NYS is a recently formed organization thus far comprising Kings, Queens, NY and Bronx County Family Court Panels. Our mission is to be an active participant in enhancing the work of Assigned Counsel/AFC throughout NY. For more information, you can reach out to Sarah Tirgary stirgariesq@aol.com or Brian Zimmerman bzimmerman116@gmail.com