

## Memorandum in Support

NYSBA #32

March 23, 2018

S.7500-B

By: BUDGET

A.9500-B

By: BUDGET

Senate Committee: Finance

Assembly Committee: Ways and Means

### **THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

The Commission on Judicial Conduct has as its mission the responsibility for investigating complaints of misconduct against judges and, where appropriate, disciplining judges for ethics violations. The Commission has worked with relatively flat budgets for the last several years. As a result, the Commission's current staffing level is at 41.5 staff members, which is down from 55 staff members in recent years. This year, the Governor proposed a two percent increase in the Commission's budget. The proposed increase will cover increased costs related to rent.

The Commission's work is critical to ensuring the public's trust and confidence in our judiciary. Accordingly, we urge the Legislature to provide proper funding for the Commission, so that it may vigorously pursue its mandate, and provide the public with reason to trust in the integrity of our judicial system.

We have many excellent and hard-working judges in New York State. Regrettably, as in every field of human endeavor, there are a few who do not meet the necessary standards. The Commission is the body charged with enforcing rules of judicial conduct, and it must be funded to perform this necessary work.