

## **COMMENTARY OF THE GOVERNOR ON THE JUDICIARY**

In accordance with Article VII, Section 1 of the State Constitution, I transmit herewith the appropriations requested by the Judiciary for fiscal year 2013-14. As required by the Constitution, I present the Judiciary budget as it has been submitted by the Chief Judge.

The Judiciary has requested appropriations of \$1.97 billion for court operations, exclusive of the cost of employee benefits. Inclusive of employee benefits, the budget for the Judiciary is requested at \$2.6 billion. In the General Fund, this reflects no growth from the prior year.

The budget submitted by the Chief Judge recognizes the ongoing budgetary pressures the State faces, especially as the State recovers from Superstorm Sandy. This budget holds the line on spending, yet ensures the courts have the resources necessary to uphold their constitutional duty. I commend the Judiciary for their continuing efforts to meet the State's fiscal goals by rethinking how the courts do business, and for their continuing partnership with the Executive Branch.