

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 2014-15. 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 \$2.1 billion for court operations, exclusive of the cost of employee benefits. Disbursements for court operations from State Operating Funds are projected to grow by \$53 million or 2.7 percent.

For the past three years my Administration and the Legislature have kept spending increases below 2 percent. By requesting an increase in excess of that amount, the Judiciary is out of step with our fiscally responsible goal for all of New York State government. I strongly believe that an efficient and effective Judiciary can robustly fulfill its constitutional duties with a spending increase at or below 2 percent, and I urge the Legislature and Judiciary to reduce the Judiciary budget so that it is in line with the rest of State spending.