



# Cornell Law School

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**November 14, 2024**

Christopher Ritchey  
FOIL Counsel & Records Access Officer  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol

24  
[REDACTED]

**VIA E-mail**

***Re: Freedom of Information Law Request***

Dear Mr. Ritchey:

Pursuant to the New York Freedom of Information Law, I hereby request the following records sufficient to identify the following:

1. All members who have served on any of the Governor's Judicial Screening Committees, including but not limited to the State Committee, First Department Committee, Second Department Committee, Third Department Committee, and Fourth Department Committee, from 2000 to the present date.
2. For each committee member identified in Request No. 1, please provide records sufficient to identify:
  - a. The member's full name
  - b. Their professional or organizational affiliation at the time of their committee service, if available
  - c. The start and end dates of their committee membership
  - d. The specific committee(s) on which they served
  - e. Whether the member served as a chairperson of the committee; if so, the start and end of their service as chairperson
  - f. Who appointed or selected the member to the Committee (Governor, Chief Judge, etc.)
3. Any and all documents, including but not limited to memos, guidelines, handbooks, or other written materials, that provide guidance on:



- a. How the committees are to evaluate candidates for judicial appointments or designations
  - b. What information the committees are to collect about candidates
  - c. Which individuals or organizations the committees are to contact for information about candidates
4. Any internal communications, reports, or documents discussing the establishment, operation, or modification of the Judicial Screening Committees and their processes from January 1, 2010 to the present.
5. Any statistics or reports on the number of candidates evaluated, recommended, or appointed through this process from January 1, 2000 to the present.
6. Copies of all Executive Orders since January 1, 2000 concerning the Governor's Judicial Screening Committees.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes. Disclosure of the information is in the public interest, and we therefore request that any fees charged for fulfilling the request be waived. Please provide all of the requested records to us via email at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. If a portion of the records cannot be emailed, please advise us of the available methods to obtain access to the remaining records.

If some of the requested records are located before others, please produce on a rolling basis.

If for any reason any portion of the request is denied, please inform us of the reasons for the denial in writing and provide the name, address, and email address of the person or body to whom an appeal should be directed. Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within five business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

**CORNELL LAW SCHOOL  
FIRST AMENDMENT CLINIC**

By: /s/ Heather E. Murray

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*Counsel for Scrutinize and Janon Fisher*