



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

WILLIAM H. MERGNER JR., PRESIDENT

Leary Bride Mergner & Bongiovanni P.A.

7 Ridgedale Avenue

Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927

973-539-2090

EMAIL: [wmergner@lbmlaw.com](mailto:wmergner@lbmlaw.com)

October 24, 2024

Hon. Heather Joy Baker  
Clerk of the Supreme Court of New Jersey  
Comments on the Proposed Disciplinary Budget  
Hughes Justice Complex  
P.O. Box 970  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0970

Re: Proposed 2025 Attorney Discipline Budget

Dear Ms. Baker:

The New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) appreciates the opportunity to review the Disciplinary Oversight Committee's (DOC) proposed 2025 budget for the attorney disciplinary system. We also extend our appreciation to the members of the DOC for their dedicated service to the Supreme Court and the legal community in monitoring the budget and operations of our disciplinary system.

The NJSBA supports the budget as presented and recommends its adoption by the Court. It provides a comprehensive explanation for the various items reflected in the budget and appears to ensure the continued operation of the disciplinary system in a fiscally responsible manner.

The NJSBA is particularly appreciative that the proposed budget addresses several of the concerns expressed by the NJSBA in recent years. For example, after expressing concerns about the nearly 38% increase in the annual assessment over the past two years, there is no recommended increase in the annual assessment for this year. In addition, the reserve is projected to decrease to 11.5% of the budget, which is in line with the recommended 10% that has long been advocated for by the NJSBA. Finally, while the fringe benefit rate (FBR) is still more than 30% higher than it was five years ago, it is projected to decrease by close to 6% this year.

Again, the NJSBA is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the DOC's budget proposal, and we commend the members of the DOC for their desire to ensure that our disciplinary system remains fiscally sound.

If the NJSBA can be of any assistance to you or the Supreme Court in further review of the budget proposal, we look forward to that opportunity.

Very truly yours,



William H. Mergner Jr., Esq.

President

cc: Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director  
Christine A. Amalfe, Esq., NJSBA President-Elect