

Jeremy A. Colby
9 Broadmoor Court
Lancaster, New York 14227

GA

February 6, 2012

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hon. Betty Jean Grant, Chairperson
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Chairperson Grant:

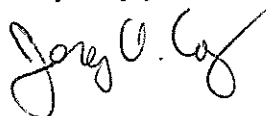
As a former County Attorney, I am familiar with the rigors and demands of the position. The Erie County Attorney represents all of Erie County's elected officials, offices, employees, and agencies. It would strengthen the office to establish a salary that is not subject to political whim. Accordingly, I respectfully suggest that your Honorable body consider amending the Erie County Charter to establish the salary of the Erie County Attorney at the same salary received by the District Attorney, which is established by New York Judiciary Law § 183-a.

To provide some context with respect to the issue of the salary for the County Attorney, you should note that the Nassau County Attorney in 2011 earned a salary of \$153,904. The County Attorney in Westchester County, which has a population of 953,000 citizens (approximately 44,000 citizens fewer than Erie County), earned \$160,747. The County Attorney in Onondaga County, which has a population of less than half of that of Erie County, earned \$132,372. The Genesee County Attorney is a part-time position at a salary of \$90,000.

I also note that the Assistant County Attorneys have had their salary rates frozen since approximately 2002. The Legislature recently approved 4% raises for the Assistant District Attorneys. The same reasoning applies to the Assistant County Attorneys.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter. Do not hesitate to call upon me if I may be of further service to the Erie County Legislature or the citizens that it serves.

Very truly yours,



Jeremy A. Colby

JAC:lcf

cc: Robert M. Graber (via hand delivery)

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