New York State Bar Association
Court Funding Initiative
Questionnaire

Background Information

1. What is your name, title, and affiliation?

2. What type of courts are you primarily familiar with?

General

3. What type of matters, if any, have been most significantly impacted by cutbacks in state court funding (*e.g.*, family court matters, landlord/tenant matters, foreclosures, consumer debt matters, criminal matters)? How have they been impacted? Any specific examples?

4. What other areas have been most significantly impacted by cutbacks in state court funding (*e.g.*, assistance to *pro se* litigants, pro bono coordinators, access to court buildings, technology, courthouse security, specialty courts, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms)? How have they been impacted? Any specific examples?

5. What particular needs do you have at the moment that are not funded?

6. What innovations or creative solutions, if any, have helped to mitigate cutbacks in state court funding (*e.g.*, early retirement incentive program to reduce staffing costs, on-line legal research to reduce library costs, mandatory e-filing to reduce filing costs)?

The Public

7. How has the experience of criminal defendants changed, if at all, in light of cutbacks in state court funding (*e.g.*, delayed adjudication, overcrowded prisons, early release, reduced funding for mental health and substance abuse programs)? Any specific examples?

8. How has the experience of civil litigants changed, if at all, in light of cutbacks in state court funding (*e.g.*, delayed adjudication, reduced assistance to *pro se* litigants, increased attorneys' and expert witness fees due to delays, increased filing fees and fines)? Any specific examples?

9. How has the experience of jurors changed, if at all, in light of cutbacks in state court funding (*e.g.*, lengthier service due to courthouse closures)? Any specific examples?

Court Representatives

10. What has been the effect of cutbacks in state court funding, if any, on judges (*e.g.*, increased caseloads, hiring freezes, resignations, furloughs, shorter workdays, effect on salaries, security concerns)? Any specific examples?

11. What has been the effect of cutbacks in state court funding, if any, on courthouse staff (*e.g.*, increased responsibilities, new responsibilities outside areas of expertise, hiring freezes, layoffs, early retirements, furloughs, effect on salaries, security concerns, low morale)? Any specific examples?

12. How has the experience of attorneys changed, if at all, in light of cutbacks in state court funding (*e.g.*, lengthier waiting time at the courthouse, more litigations against *pro se* litigants)? Any specific examples?