

May 5, 2003

Dear 18B Panelist

Re: 18B Rate Increase

IS IT TIME TO REJOICE? PERHAPS!!!

I'm enclosing the Page One headline and article from the May 1st (Law Day) issue of the New York Law Journal. Despite the rift between the Governor and the Legislature, it appears, finally, that everyone in Albany has concluded that 18B Rates should be increased as of January 1, 2004.

It is also heartening to know that the Legislature's proposal establishes a seven member task force that will review the sufficiency of the rates from year to year, so that presumably, we will never again have to endure the idiocy of the past 17 years.

I thank you all for standing firm and serving on this panel during these many years of unfair remuneration. There is light at the end of our tunnel.

Very truly yours,

Patrick L. McCloskey