



New York State
Unified Court System

Hon. Norman St. George, J.S.C.
First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge

March 15, 2024

Elena Ruth Sassower
P.O. Box 8101
White Plains, NY 10602

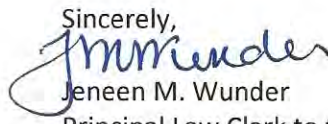
Dear Ms. Sassower:

Your email of February 14, 2024, email of February 22, 2024 and voicemail of February 22, 2024 to Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas were referred to First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George for review. On behalf of First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George, I have been asked to respond.

Prior correspondence from the Unified Court System, dated February 2, 2024, (a copy of which is enclosed), explained that under our state constitution, the agency with sole jurisdiction to consider complaints of judicial misconduct is the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct, which is an independent state agency over which the New York State Unified Court System has no authority. In addition, our prior correspondence explained that under our state constitution and applicable statutes, the Appellate Division has sole authority to investigate complaints of professional misconduct by attorneys and that the Chief Administrative Judge has no authority over that independent appellate court. Lastly, the attorney grievance process in this state remains strictly confidential and since judges (including all judicial leaders) and non-judicial staff are strictly prohibited from intervening on behalf of any litigant or potential litigant, we are not permitted to discuss with you any complaints you wish to file or may have filed with the Attorney Grievance Committee of the Appellate Division. Accordingly, we will not endeavor to access the links to which you refer in your February 22, 2024 e-mail.

As you are aware, all judicial and non-judicial persons within the Unified Court System are ethically prohibited from offering legal advice. Therefore, you should strongly consider speaking with an attorney if you need assistance filing a complaint alleging judicial or attorney misconduct.

Regarding your repeated inquiries overall, please be advised that you will no longer receive a response from this office to correspondence of a similar nature.

Sincerely,

Jeneen M. Wunder
Principal Law Clerk to the
Hon. Norman St. George, JSC
First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge

Encl.



New York State
Unified Court System

Office of Court Administration / Executive Office

Justin A. Barry, Esq.
Executive Director

February 2, 2024

Michael Pulizotto, Esq.
Chief Clerk VI

Elena Ruth Sassower
P.O. Box 8101
White Plains, NY 10602

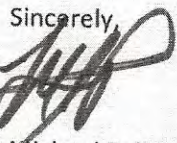
Dear Ms. Sassower:

Your memorandum to Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas was referred to First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George for review¹. On behalf of First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George, I have been asked to respond.

Please be advised that all judges and nonjudicial staff of the New York State Unified Court System (UCS) are prohibited from giving legal advice, therefore, we are severely limited in responding to your email and memorandum. As a non-party or counsel to the matter you write about, you may wish to consult a licensed attorney to determine what, if any, legal processes may be available to you or the parties involved.

While you may generally submit a complaint alleging professional misconduct by an attorney to the appropriate Appellate Division grievance committee (I enclose a two-page information guide from <https://nycourts.gov> with mailing addresses for the committees), how an Appellate Division may require complainants to render their submissions is not a question properly posed to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. Under our state constitution and applicable statutes, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court is an independent appellate court over which the Chief Administrative Judge has no authority, whether administrative or judicial.

Lastly, under our state constitution and applicable statutes, the authority to investigate, determine and adjudicate complaints alleging judicial misconduct resides solely with the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct. You may direct any questions in this regard to an attorney or the Commission.

Sincerely,

Michael Pulizotto

Enclosure

¹ Your October 26, 2023 email to the attention of Chief Administrative Judge Zayas was similarly referred to me for response on behalf of First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George.



NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT



About Us

The Commission is an independent state agency charged with investigating allegations of judicial misconduct against New York state, county, town and village judges.

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File a Complaint

All complaints must be signed and in writing. You can fill out our complaint form online, print the form and mail it, or send us a letter describing the alleged misconduct.

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Contact Us

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Albany

Empire State Plaza
Corning Tower, Suite 2301
Albany, New York 12223
Telephone: 518-453-4600
Fax: 518-299-1757

New York

61 Broadway
Suite 1200
New York, New York 10006
Telephone: 646-386-4800
Fax: 518-299-1757

Rochester

400 Andrews Street
Suite 700
Rochester, New York 14604
Telephone: 585-784-4141
Fax: 518-299-1757

Email

General Inquiries: cjc@cjcnyc.gov

Comments Regarding Pending Rules Changes: rulemaking@cjcnyc.gov

For information on public records, go to [Public Records](#) on this website.

Complaints and Visitors

For information on how to file a complaint with the Commission, go to [Filing a Complaint](#).

Please note that all complaints must be submitted either via our online complaint form, email, fax or postal mail. Complaints delivered by hand to any of the Commission's three offices will not be accepted. Likewise, no walk-in visitors to the Commission's offices will be accommodated.

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Attorney Grievance Committees

Complaints About Attorneys

Attorney / Client Disputes

If you have a complaint against an attorney, you may contact the Attorney Disciplinary / Grievance Committee. The office you need to contact depends upon the location of your lawyer's office. Please note that the New York State Unified Court System **does not** have jurisdiction to investigate complaints concerning representation by attorneys.

- **First Judicial Department Attorney Grievance Committee**

- **New York & Bronx Counties**

- Departmental Disciplinary Committee for the First Department
180 Maiden Lane
17th Floor
New York, NY 10038
(212) 401-0800

- **Second Judicial Department Attorney Grievance Committees**

- **Kings, Queens & Richmond Counties**

- Grievance Committee for the Second, Eleventh, and Thirteenth Judicial Districts
Renaissance Plaza
335 Adams Street, Suite 2400
Brooklyn, NY 11201-3745
(718) 923-6300

- **Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland & Westchester Counties**

- Grievance Committee for the Ninth Judicial District
399 Knollwood Road, Suite 200
White Plains, NY 10603
(914) 824-5070

- **Nassau & Suffolk Counties**

- Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District
150 Motor Parkway, Suite 102
Hauppauge, NY 11788
(631) 231-3775

- **Third Judicial Department Attorney Grievance Committee**

- **Albany, Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Madison, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren & Washington Counties**
Attorney Grievance Committee

286 Washington Avenue Extension
Suite 200
Albany, New York 12203
(518) 285-8350

• **Fourth Judicial Department Attorney Grievance Committees**

- **Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga & Oswego Counties**
Grievance Committee for the Fifth Judicial District
Syracuse Square
224 Harrison Street, Suite 408
Syracuse, NY 13202-3066
(315) 401-3344
- **Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne & Yates Counties**
Grievance Committee for the Seventh Judicial District
Attorney Grievance Committee
50 East Avenue, Suite 404
Rochester, NY 14604-2206
(585) 530-3180
Fax: (585) 530-3191
- **Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genessee, Niagara, Orleans & Wyoming Counties**
Grievance Committee for the Eighth Judicial District
438 Main Street, Suite 800
Buffalo, NY 14202-3212
(716) 845-3630

Attorney/Client Fee Disputes

Part 137 of the Rules of the Chief Administrator establishes a statewide Attorney-Client Fee Dispute Resolution Program

Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

The Lawyers' Fund was established in 1982 to provide reimbursement to law clients who have lost money or property as a result of lawyer's dishonest conduct in the practice of law. The fund is a remedy for law clients who cannot get reimbursement from the lawyer who caused the loss, or from insurance or other sources.

For information on filing an application to recover funds, contact the New York Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection at 1-800-442-FUND or visit their website at www.nylawfund.org