

From: Juliana Wright <jwright@sjci.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 3:16 PM
To: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
Subject: **Re: FOLLOW-UP -- Status of the proposed "two simple questions" for your tomorrow's debate between Eric County D.A. Candidates Keane & Gardner**

Hi Elena,

This has been forwarded to the appropriate party and will be taken into consideration.

Juliana Wright



Juliana Wright

Assistant Director of Marketing and Communication

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On Wed, Oct 23, 2024 at 3:09 PM Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
<elena@judgewatch.org> wrote:

TO: [St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute Annual Political Debate Director Juliana Wright](#)

I have received no communications from you, from Social Studies Teachers Lina and McHale, or from students to my yesterday's below e-mail, sent to you alone.

Kindly confirm that you forwarded it to Messrs. Lina and McHale, as you said you would – and that it was forwarded to the students participating in tomorrow's debate for their evaluation of "the two simple questions" it furnished.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgewatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 1:20 PM
To: 'jwright@sjci.com' <jwright@sjci.com>

Subject: Thank you for your October 24th Erie County D.A. Debate between Candidates Keane & Gardner

TO: [St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute Annual Political Debate Director Juliana Wright](#)

Thank you for your call back – and the time you gave to our conversation. As discussed, I learned of your October 24th debate between D.A. Candidates Keane and Gardner from today's WBEN article "[Zeroing in on race for Erie County District Attorney](#)" by Brayton Wilson.

Below is my e-mail to Buffalo's WBEN Radio that I was just about to send when you called me – and which I partially read to you. Beneath it are my e-mails to Buffalo's Channel 7 News and Channel 2 News – and beneath them my first e-mails to D.A. Candidates Keane and Gardner, respectively, on July 18th and July 24th. All attached the above-three items.

The July 24th e-mail, which was to Candidate Gardner, stated:

“Last week, I sent Acting D.A. Keane – and all 61 of New York's other D.A.s and acting D.A.s – the above three attachments by the below July 18th e-mail entitled 'NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint – Your D.A. salary increases, the judicial salary increases on which they are based, & the violations of NY penal laws by state legislators within your jurisdictions', requesting their answers, by August 1st, to two simple questions:

(1) whether they will be repudiating their state-mandated D.A. salary increases, paid from their county budgets, because they are based on three “false instrument”, penal law-violating commission reports raising judicial salaries;

(2) confirmation that they will be recusing themselves from CJA's July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint pertaining thereto and securing an independent prosecutor.

If elected, what would your answers be? Please let me hear from you by August 1st so that, based on your answers, Erie county voters may be apprised as to whether a write-in campaign must be launched for suitable D.A. candidates who will abide by their duty of enforcing New York's penal

laws, without fear or favor, including by recusing themselves when compromised by self-interest and relationships.”

I received no response from Candidate Gardner to this e-mail, just as, likewise, none from Acting D.A. Candidate Keane to my July 18th e-mail. Thereafter, I cc'd them on three essentially-identical August 8th e-mails [to the Buffalo News](#), [to WBFO](#), and [to Investigative Post](#), followed by a more extensive [August 28th e-mail to Spectrum News](#), to which they were also both cc'd. All these e-mails reiterated the above two questions – which I am now requesting that the students of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute examine and ask D.A. Candidates Keane and Gardner at the debate.

Here's [CJA's webpage for the Erie County D.A. race](#), on which everything is posted – and which includes a helpful “**Guide for Erie County 'Local Journalism'**”, further explicating the situation. Perhaps you have some aspiring political journalists among your students?

Please forward to [Social Studies Teachers Theodore Lina and Patrick McHale](#), as you said you would, with my sincerest thanks for their spectacular contribution to their students and the community. The message I sent, before your call, to Mr. Lina *via* his webmail, with a comparable message to Mr. McHale, read:

"I am director & co-founder of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA). What a wonderful opportunity you are providing to your students -- and the community -- by the political debate you are holding on Thursday, October 24th between the Erie County D.A. candidates, Acting D.A. Keane and Challenger Gardner. I have primary-source, documentary evidence pertaining the fitness of the candidates, including correspondence to both of them -- and the press -- with questions for them to answer, starting with the D.A. salary. Kindly call me, as soon as possible. Thank you. Elena Sassower, Director, 914-421-1200."

I am available to answer questions – no matter how early or late.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 12:28 PM

To: 'newsroom@wben.com' <newsroom@wben.com>
Cc: 'shawndon@buffalo.edu' <shawndon@buffalo.edu>; 'charlie.specht@wgrz.com' <charlie.specht@wgrz.com>; 'sean.mickey@wgrz.com' <sean.mickey@wgrz.com>; 'katie.daugherty@wgrz.com' <katie.daugherty@wgrz.com>; 'Michael.Wooten@wkbw.com' <Michael.Wooten@wkbw.com>; 'wkbwnews@scripps.com' <wkbwnews@scripps.com>; 'ed.drantch@wkbw.com' <ed.drantch@wkbw.com>

Subject: Follow up to your today's article "Zeroing in on race for Erie County District Attorney" (WBEN/Brayton Wilson), extensively quoting SUNY/Buffalo Asst. Political Professor Shawn Donahue

TO: [WBEN Radio Reporter Brayton Wilson](#)

I am director and co-founder of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#), with a great deal of primary-source, documentary evidence about the Erie County D.A. candidates – the subject of your today's article "[Zeroing in on race for Erie County District Attorney](#)". You extensively quote [SUNY-Buffalo Political Science Assistant Professor Shawn Donahue](#), who I am cc'ing with a request that he also call me. There is an imperative need for scholarship on the Erie County D.A. and other races.

Meantime – and pertaining to Gardner's attack ads about Flynn's arrest 40 years ago that were part of a sealed record – below, with the above-attached, are my e-mails to reporters pertaining to same, to which I have received no response. They are also cc'd.

I look forward to your calls.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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elena@judgewatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 9:16 AM
To: 'Michael.Wooten@wkbw.com' <Michael.Wooten@wkbw.com>

Cc: 'wkbwnews@scripps.com' <wkbwnews@scripps.com>; 'ed.drantch@wkbw.com' <ed.drantch@wkbw.com>; 'charlie.specht@wgrz.com' <charlie.specht@wgrz.com>;

'sean.mickey@wgrz.com' <sean.mickey@wgrz.com>; 'katie.daugherty@wgrz.com' <katie.daugherty@wgrz.com>

Subject: Your news broadcast “Gardner for Erie County DA campaign criticized for misleading attack ad”

**TO: [WKBW – Channel 7 News](#)
[Senior Reporter & Anchor Michael Wooten](#)**

Your news broadcast “[Gardner for Erie County DA campaign criticized for misleading attack ad](#)” from five days ago, refers to the police report that “another media outlet” obtained regarding the DWI arrest, from 40 years ago, of then 21 year-old James Keane, I assume the other “media outlet” is WGRZ.

Below, with the above-attached, is my October 13th e-mail to WGRZ investigative reporters Charlie Specht and Sean Mickey about the police report and their news reporting about it and, above it, my yesterday’s e-mail to them. I received no response to either.

As you state that the Erie County D.A. race is “one of the most closely watched local races” and “we don’t have a ton of high profile races”, I look forward to hearing from you soon about the explosive, fully-documented story that they have been “sitting on”.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2024 10:09 AM
To: 'charlie.specht@wgrz.com' <charlie.specht@wgrz.com>; 'sean.mickey@wgrz.com' <sean.mickey@wgrz.com>
Cc: 'katie.daugherty@wgrz.com' <katie.daugherty@wgrz.com>

Subject: URGENT: Your Oct 11 & Oct 3 "WGRZ On Your Side" Investigative Reports --& the deceit & manipulation of you & the public by BOTH D.A. Candidate Gardner & Acting D.A. Keane

TO: [Channel 2-“WGRZ On Your Side”](#) –

[Investigative Reporter Charlie Specht](#)

[Investigative Reporter Sean Mickey](#)

I have received no response from you to my below October 13th e-mail entitled “Your Oct 11 & Oct 3 ‘WGRZ On Your Side’ Investigative Reports --& the deceit & manipulation of you & the public by BOTH D.A. Candidate Gardner & Acting D.A. Keane”. Did you respond? Is there anything about my evidence-supported e-mail that did not check-out 100%?

Please advise immediately – and whether, as it appears, you have done NO further reporting on the Erie County D.A. race – and NO reporting of the elections for Erie County’s 15 state legislative seats and 4 Supreme Court judgeships, as to which [CJA’s webpage for the Erie County D.A. race](#), whose link my below e-mail to you furnished, features a helpful “[Guide for Erie County ‘Local Journalism’](#)”.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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elena@judgewatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2024 1:37 PM
To: 'charlie.specht@wgrz.com' <charlie.specht@wgrz.com>; 'sean.mickey@wgrz.com' <sean.mickey@wgrz.com>
Cc: 'katie.daugherty@wgrz.com' <katie.daugherty@wgrz.com>

Subject: Your Oct 11 & Oct 3 "WGRZ On Your Side" Investigative Reports --& the deceit & manipulation of you & the public by BOTH D.A. Candidate Gardner & Acting D.A. Keane

TO: Channel 2-“WGRZ On Your Side” –

[Investigative Reporter Charlie Specht](#)

[Investigative Reporter Sean Mickey](#)

I am director and co-founder of the non-partisan, non-profit [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#).

Your October 11th investigative report, "[Gardner D.A. campaign criticized for misleading attack ad](#)" is correct in its subtitle, "Truth is at issue as the race for Erie County District Attorney heats up".

BOTH D.A. Candidate Gardner and Acting D.A. Keane are deceiving and manipulating you – and through you, the public.

When the Gardner campaign furnished you with police records of the 40-year-old DWI arrest case against the then 21-year-old Keane, it was NOT because Gardner did not have a current – and DISPOSITIVE example – of Keane “refusing to follow the law” – and of his doing so as Acting Erie County D.A, warranting that Keane be prosecuted for public corruption, of which he would be convicted. He did – and the proof is my below July 24th e-mail to Gardner, with its above three attachments.

As for Keane, when he sat down to be interviewed by you for your October 3rd investigative report "[Acting DA Keane speaks about DWI arrest from 1985](#)", he was fully aware of my July 24th e-mail to Gardner – and that Gardner had not responded to it. This, because I had cc'd both Keane and Gardner on three essentially-identical August 8th e-mails [to the Buffalo News](#), [to WBFO](#), and [to Investigative Post](#), each entitled: “YOUR 2024 ELECTIONS REPORTING: Erie County D.A. Candidates Keane & Gardner -- & Erie County’s 13-re-election seeking state legislative incumbents, etc.”, followed by a more extensive [August 28th e-mail to Spectrum News](#), to which they were both cc'd, entitled “INFORMING THE VOTERS: Erie County’s D.A. Candidates Keane & Gardner, its 15 State Legislators, 4 Uncontested for Re-Election & its 4 Uncontested Supreme Court Judgeships”.

I am available to answer questions about the above and below and to assist you in reporting the “Truth...at issue”, namely, that BOTH D.A. candidates are demonstrably unfit for any office of public trust – and that Acting D.A. Keane must be indicted for public corruption with respect to CJA’s [July 18, 2024 NOTICE/grand jury complaint](#) that he has been “sitting on” for nearly three full months – and that D.A. Candidate Gardner would “sit on”, if elected – “protecting”, from prosecution, corrupt Erie County state legislators on the Erie County 2024 election ballots, including, as with Assemblyman Norris, for an uncontested Supreme Court judgeship. This, in addition to “protecting” from prosecution Governor Hochul and Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation Chair Fahey – as is obvious from the most cursory examination of [CJA’s underlying January 18, 2024 Opposition Report to the Commission’s December 4, 2023 “Report on Judicial Compensation”](#) to which the Governor was the first addressee.

By the way, when the Gardner campaign gave you the records from the “decades old arrest” of 21-year old Keane – and thereafter told you that “no amount of excuses can change the fact that Erie County taxpayers deserve better from their chief law enforcement officer” – do you know whether it had also peddled its “grasping at straws” story to the [Buffalo News](#), [Investigative Post](#), [WBFO](#), and [Spectrum News](#)...?

I look forward to speaking with you directly about this fully-documented, explosive “local journalism” story – which will deservedly win you every journalism prize there is to win.

For your convenience, CJA’s webpage for the Erie County D.A. race, on which this e-mail will be posted, is [here](#).

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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elena@judgwatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgwatch.org>

Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 3:28 PM

To: 'jamesgardner5@gmail.com' <jamesgardner5@gmail.com>

**Subject: Winning Your Erie D.A. Race & Demonstrating Your Fitness for the Office:
NOTICE & Grand Jury/Public Corruption Complaint**

TO: [Would-Be Erie County D.A. James Gardner](#)

This follows the two messages I sent you, *via* [your D.A. campaign facebook page](#), on July 19th and July 21st, requesting your e-mail address, without response. Fortunately, I was able to discover an e-mail address for you on the Office of Court Administration webpage of your attorney registration.

I am director and co-founder of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens’ organization Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), which, for several decades, has documented the collusion of all three branches of our state government in the subversion and collapse of lawful, constitutional governance. New York’s 62 D.A.s, whose duty it is to enforce the state’s penal laws, including against law-breaking public officers, are key participants in this.

Only five of this year’s 14 D.A. races are uncontested, and, among them, your D.A. race against Erie County Acting D.A. Michael Keane – the hand-picked successor of former Erie County D.A. John Flynn.

Last week, I sent Acting D.A. Keane – and all 61 of New York’s other D.A.s and acting D.A.s – the above three attachments by the below July 18th e-mail entitled “NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint – Your D.A. salary increases, the judicial salary increases on which they are based, & the violations of NY penal laws by state legislators within your jurisdictions”, requesting their answers, by August 1st, to two simple questions:

1. whether they will be repudiating their state-mandated D.A. salary increases, paid from their county budgets, because they are based on three “false instrument”, penal law-violating commission reports raising judicial salaries;
2. confirmation that they will be recusing themselves from CJA’s July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint pertaining thereto and securing an independent prosecutor.

If elected, what would your answers be? Please let me hear from you by August 1st so that, based on your answers, Erie county voters may be apprised as to whether a write-in campaign must be launched for suitable D.A. candidates who will abide by their duty of enforcing New York’s penal laws, without fear or favor, including by recusing themselves when compromised by self-interest and relationships.

I am available to answer questions, including as to the particulars of my communications with former Erie County D.A. Flynn and his predecessor Acting D.A. Michael Flaherty.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 8:49 PM
To: 'president@daasny.org' <president@daasny.org>; 'mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov' <mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov>; 'david.soares@albanycountyny.gov' <david.soares@albanycountyny.gov>; 'ian.jones@alleganyco.com' <ian.jones@alleganyco.com>; 'clarkda@bronxda.nyc.gov' <clarkda@bronxda.nyc.gov>; 'paul.battisti@broomecounty.us' <paul.battisti@broomecounty.us>; 'LPRieman@cattco.org' <LPRieman@cattco.org>; 'bantonacci@cayugacounty.us' <bantonacci@cayugacounty.us>; 'schmidtj@chqgov.com' <schmidtj@chqgov.com>; 'wwetmore@chemungcountyny.gov' <wwetmore@chemungcountyny.gov>;

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'brian.seaman@niagaracounty.com' <brian.seaman@niagaracounty.com>;
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Cc: 'morgan.bitton@daasny.org' <morgan.bitton@daasny.org>

Subject: NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint -- Your D.A. salary increases, the judicial salary increases on which they are based, & the violations of NY penal laws by state legislators within your jurisdictions

District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY)

ATT: President/Richmond County D.A. Michael McMahon

NYS' 61 Other D.A. and Acting D.A. Members

Above-attached are CJA's July 18, 2024 NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint and underlying July 17, 2024 ethics complaint to the Albany County Ethics Commission against Albany County D.A. Soares and its accompanying transmittal letter to him.

So that I may be guided accordingly, please let me hear from each of you by no later than two weeks from today, August 1, 2024, with respect to both the NOTICE and July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint, herewith filed with you.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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