

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.*

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July 14, 2009

Senior Managing Editor CynDee Royle
The Journal News
One Gannett Drive
White Plains, New York 10604

RE: (1) Retraction of The Journal News' knowingly false and defamatory May 6, 2009 article "*Hecklers try to derail new city judge*" / "*White Plains woman heckles city judge during confirmation*";
(2) Journalistic expose of the issue of legitimate public concern the article purposefully concealed, *to wit*, the corruption of the judicial appointment process by which White Plains gets its City Court Judges, as established by primary-source documentary evidence

Dear Ms. Royle:

This follows up my yesterday's phone conversation with Assistant Metro Editor D. Scott Faubel, who stated to me that The Journal News does not currently have a "Readers' Representative" and that you had designated him to follow-up on my complaint concerning the Journal News' May 6, 2009 article by reporter Keith Eddings entitled "*Hecklers try to derail new city judge*" (newspaper version) and "*White Plains woman heckles city judge during confirmation*" (website version).

Mr. Faubel conceded that his boss is Deputy Managing Editor Bob Fredericks. Inasmuch as my complaint of defamation and cover-up involves Mr. Fredericks – who had direct knowledge of the improper and scurrilous article Mr. Eddings was writing, while he was writing it — I trust you would agree that the complaint should be handled by someone having more distance and independence from Mr. Fredericks. Indeed, as soon as Mr. Faubel's examines my May 5th e-mails to Mr. Fredericks – recapping my May 5th phone conversation with him about Mr. Eddings' then-being-written article – he will doubtless ask to be relieved of having to pass judgment on the actions and inactions of his superior.

* **Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)** is a national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, working to ensure that the processes of judicial selection and discipline are effective and meaningful. Its administrative/corporate office is in White Plains, New York.

EX 6

My May 5th e-mails to Mr. Fredericks, which I simultaneously sent to Mr. Eddings, are annexed as Exhibit G to my accompanying analysis of Mr. Eddings' May 6th article.¹ Their importance is such that they are reproduced, in full, in the "Introduction" to the analysis, prefaced as follows:

"The three e-mails are herein reproduced, as they underscore the knowing and deliberate defamation that Mr. Eddings and his editor, Mr. Fredericks, intended by The Journal News' May 6, 2009 article and their wilful cover-up of issues of legitimate public concern: the misfeasance, nonfeasance, and malfeasance of the executive and legislative branches of our White Plains City government, undermining its judicial branch with corrupt judges who use their judicial power for ulterior, retaliatory purposes." (at p. 2).

Any impartial review of these e-mails and the analysis will confirm the necessity of oversight and remedial action by The Journal News. This would include retraction of the May 6th article, as well as a journalistic expose of the primary-source documentary evidence of the corruption of the judicial appointment process by which White Plains gets its City Court judges – this being the issue of legitimate public concern the article purposefully concealed.

I and CJA's President and Co-Founder, Doris L. Sassower, would be pleased to meet with you and your designees so as to amicably resolve The Journal News' knowing and deliberate defamation of each of us and blackballing of our non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization – part of its longstanding pattern and practice of journalistic fraud, withholding from the public issues of legitimate public concern in violation of its First Amendment responsibilities, which we can also amply document.

Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary
& responsible journalism,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

Enclosure

cc: Assistant Metro Editor, D. Scott Faubel (sfaubel@lohud.com)
Deputy Managing Editor Bob Fredericks (rfrederi@lohud.com)
Reporter Keith Eddings (keddings@lohud.com)

¹ A copy of my May 5th e-mails are being faxed and e-mailed to you with this letter. However, so as not to clog your fax and e-mail, the 15-page analysis and appended exhibits will be mailed to you with the original of this letter. Until they arrive, you can access them from CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org. They are posted on the webpage entitled "The Corrupt Judicial Appointment Process to White Plains City Court", accessible *via* the top panel "Latest News" and *via* the side panel "Judicial Selection-State-NY".