

**From:** Eric Katz <katz@nysenate.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 4:45 PM  
**To:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
**Cc:** Senate Foil; Kenan Kurt; James Ostaszewski; Brad Hoylman-Sigal; Jabari Brisport

**Subject:** **Re: FOIL APPEAL: Witness List & Persons/Entities Invited to Testify at Senate's Nov. 1, 2023 Oversight Hearing on Family Court**

**Attachments:** [CJA Hearing Appeal 12-11-23.pdf](#)

Ms. Sassower,

Please see the attached response to your appeal.

Thank you,

Eric Katz

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 1, 2023 12:40 PM  
**To:** Eric Katz <[katz@nysenate.gov](mailto:katz@nysenate.gov)>  
**Cc:** Senate Foil <[foil@nysenate.gov](mailto:foil@nysenate.gov)>; Kenan Kurt <[kurt@nysenate.gov](mailto:kurt@nysenate.gov)>; James Ostaszewski <[ostaszew@nysenate.gov](mailto:ostaszew@nysenate.gov)>; Brad Hoylman-Sigal <[hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov)>; Jabari Brisport <[brisport@nysenate.gov](mailto:brisport@nysenate.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOIL APPEAL: Witness List & Persons/Entities Invited to Testify at Senate's Nov. 1, 2023 Oversight Hearing on Family Court

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org). [Learn why this is important](#)

**TO: Senate Majority Counsel Eric Katz**

My below December 1<sup>st</sup> FOIL appeal is herewith sent to you.

Please be advised that Secretary of the Senate Paulino's appealed-from November 2<sup>nd</sup> FOIL response, as all her FOIL responses, does not include the name and e-mail address for Senate majority counsel for purposes of appeal. Nor does it inform of any right of appeal, except by its attached "Rules and Regulations Relating to the Public Inspection and Copying of Legislative Records" – an attachment she invariably furnishes.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200  
[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)

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**From:** Senate Foil <[foil@nysenate.gov](mailto:foil@nysenate.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 1, 2023 10:24 AM

**To:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>; Senate Foil <[foil@nysenate.gov](mailto:foil@nysenate.gov)>

**Cc:** Kenan Kurt <[kurt@nysenate.gov](mailto:kurt@nysenate.gov)>; James Ostaszewski <[ostaszew@nysenate.gov](mailto:ostaszew@nysenate.gov)>; Brad Hoylman-Sigal <[hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov)>; Jabari Brisport <[brisport@nysenate.gov](mailto:brisport@nysenate.gov)>

**Subject: RE: FOIL APPEAL: Witness List & Persons/Entities Invited to Testify at Senate's Nov. 1, 2023 Oversight Hearing on Family Court**

Good Morning,

Please note that appeals must be directed to the Counsel to the Majority, Eric Katz ([katz@nysenate.gov](mailto:katz@nysenate.gov)).

Senate Foil  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 1, 2023 10:12 AM

**To:** 'foil@nysenate.gov' <[foil@nysenate.gov](mailto:foil@nysenate.gov)>

**Cc:** 'Kenan Kurt' <[kurt@nysenate.gov](mailto:kurt@nysenate.gov)>; 'James Ostaszewski' <[ostaszew@nysenate.gov](mailto:ostaszew@nysenate.gov)>; 'hoylman@nysenate.gov' <[hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov)>; 'brisport@nysenate.gov' <[brisport@nysenate.gov](mailto:brisport@nysenate.gov)>

**Subject: FOIL APPEAL: Witness List & Persons/Entities Invited to Testify at Senate's Nov. 1, 2023 Oversight Hearing on Family Court**

TO: Counsel to the Senate Majority,

Pursuant to §9 of your above-attached "Rules and Regulations Relating to the Public Inspection and Copying of Legislative Records", sent to me by the below November 2<sup>nd</sup> e-mail of Senate Records Access Officer Alejandra Paulino, I hereby appeal its response, directing me to the Senate's webpage for the November 1<sup>st</sup> oversight hearing on Family Court: <https://www.nysenate.gov/calendar/public-hearings/november-01-2023/joint-public-hearing-conduct-oversight-family-court>.

The basis of the appeal is as follows: There is NO posting on that Senate webpage of what my October 26<sup>th</sup> FOIL request had requested, *to wit*:

- (1) the witness list for the November 1<sup>st</sup> hearing that, allegedly, had "already [been] finalized" by October 26<sup>th</sup>; and
- (2) "records reflecting the persons/entities" invited to testify at the November 1<sup>st</sup> hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee and/or Senate Committee on Children and Families.

Indeed, the Senate webpage does not even post the witness list used by Senators Hoylman and Brisport at the November 1<sup>st</sup> hearing, organized into panels. For your convenience, in addition to the link, above-attached is a screenshot of the Senate's webpage showing what is posted beneath the VIDEO of the hearing.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200  
[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)

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**From:** Senate Foil <[foil@nysenate.gov](mailto:foil@nysenate.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:00 PM  
**To:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>

**Subject: Re: Further Request & Pursuant to FOIL -- RE: Request to testify at Senate's Nov. 1, 2023 Oversight Hearing on Family Courts**

Dear Ms. Sassower,

This is to acknowledge your request dated October 26, 2023 pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law.

You have requested "...already finalized...witness list for Wednesday's hearing' and, additionally, records reflecting the persons/entities to which the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Committee on Children and Families extended invitations to testify.....at the Committees' November 1<sup>st</sup> oversight hearing on the Family Courts....".

Please be see the following link: <https://www.nysenate.gov/calendar/public-hearings/november-01-2023/joint-public-hearing-conduct-oversight-family-court> .

I have attached a copy of the Senate's Rules and Regulations Relating to the Public Inspection and Copying of Legislative Records for your information.

Sincerely,

Alejandra N. Paulino, Esq.

Secretary of the Senate  
Senate Foil

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2023 12:55 PM  
**To:** Kenan Kurt <[kurt@nysenate.gov](mailto:kurt@nysenate.gov)>

Cc: James Ostaszewski <[ostaszew@nysenate.gov](mailto:ostaszew@nysenate.gov)>; Senate Foil <[foil@nysenate.gov](mailto:foil@nysenate.gov)>

**Subject: Further Request & Pursuant to FOIL -- RE: Request to testify at Senate's Nov. 1, 2023 Oversight Hearing on Family Courts**

Dear Mr. Kurt,

Kindly furnish me with your "already finalized...witness list for Wednesday's hearing" and, additionally, records reflecting the persons/entities to which the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Committee on Children and Families extended invitations to testify.

To assist you in furnishing same, I am cc'ing the Senate's FOIL/records access officer, the Secretary of the Senate, with a request for production pursuant to [Senate Rule XIV "Freedom of Information"](#).

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
914-421-1200  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)

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**From:** Kenan Kurt <[kurt@nysenate.gov](mailto:kurt@nysenate.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2023 10:39 AM  
**To:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>; James Ostaszewski <[ostaszew@nysenate.gov](mailto:ostaszew@nysenate.gov)>

**Subject: Re: Request to testify at Senate's Nov. 1, 2023 Oversight Hearing on Family Courts**

Good morning, Ms. Sassower,

Unfortunately, we have already finalized our witness list for Wednesday's hearing and won't be able to accommodate your oral testimony, but we welcome written testimony submitted as a PDF to James and me.

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 10:39 AM  
**To:** Kenan Kurt <[kurt@nysenate.gov](mailto:kurt@nysenate.gov)>, James Ostaszewski <[ostaszew@nysenate.gov](mailto:ostaszew@nysenate.gov)>

**Subject: Request to testify at Senate's Nov. 1, 2023 Oversight Hearing on Family Courts**

**TO:** Kenan Kurt/Chief of Staff & Counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee (212-633-8052)  
James Ostaszewski/Counsel & Legislative Director for Senate Committee on Children & Families (518-455-3451)

Following up the voice mail messages I left for each of you, earlier this morning, this is to request to testify at the Committees' November 1<sup>st</sup> oversight hearing on the Family Courts. My completed request form is attached.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200  
[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)