

**ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION
FIRST JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
180 Maiden Lane, 17th Floor
New York, New York 10038**

JORGE DOPICO
Chief Attorney

Background Information

Today's Date: January 29, 2024

Name: Elena Ruth Sassower/Director – Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
Address: Box 8101, White Plains, New York 10602
Telephone: 914-421-1200
Cell: 646-220-7987
Email: elena@judgewatch.org

Are you represented by a lawyer regarding this complaint? No

Attorney Information

Attorney Complained Against: Victor Kovner, Esq.
Office Address: c/o NYS Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation
64 Beaver Street, Box 454, New York, New York 10004
Telephone: ?
Email: nyscompensation@gmail.com

Dates of Incident: October 2, 2023 – December 4, 2023

Have you filed a civil or criminal complaint against this attorney? No

Have you filed a complaint with any other agency, such as a Bar Association or District Attorney's Office? If yes, state the name of the agency:

- (1) Attorney General James' Public Integrity Bureau;
- (2) the NYS Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG);
- (3) Second, Third, and Fourth Department Appellate Division Attorney Grievance Committees (complaints against the other five attorney-members of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation).

Action taken by the agency, if any:

The complaints have just been filed.

Details of Complaint

This is a conflict-of-interest/corruption complaint against attorney Victor Kovner (#1155688/First Dept. 1962), as one of seven members of the New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, for his knowing and deliberate violations of, *inter alia*:

- [Public Officers Law §74](#) “Code of Ethics”;
- [Penal Law §175.35](#): “Offering a false instrument for filing in the first degree”;
- [Penal Law §195](#): “Official misconduct”;
- [Penal Law §105.15](#): “Conspiracy in the second degree”;
- [Penal Law §20.00](#): “Criminal liability for conduct of another”;
- [Penal Law Article 496: “PUBLIC TRUST ACT”](#) –
 - [§496.06](#): “Public corruption”;
 - [§496.05](#): “Corrupting the government in the first degree”.

These constitute violations of [New York’s Rules of Professional Conduct](#) and, specifically, Rule 8.4 “Misconduct” and Rule 8.3 “Reporting Professional Misconduct” – over which the Appellate Division attorney grievance committees have jurisdiction.

The facts and evidence substantiating this complaint are set forth by CJA’s accompanying January 18, 2024 Opposition Report to the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation’s misnomered December 4, 2023 “Final Report on Judicial Compensation”. The Opposition Report is filled with live hyperlinks to facilitate verification and, therefore, is best reviewed by pdf.

[To comply with your filing requirements for complaints](#), a hard copy is also being mailed with this complaint form.

Complainant’s Signature (Required): 

The foregoing complaint, with attached January 18, 2024 Opposition Report, is affirmed as true under penalties of perjury, pursuant to CPLR §2106.