

**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: February 27, 2025

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 – November 14, 2024

Have you filed a civil or criminal complaint against this attorney? Yes

If yes, name of the case, Court, Index Number:

*CJA v. Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, et al.,
Albany County Supreme Court (#902654-24), at the New York Court of Appeals
on a direct appeal of right ([APL-2024-149](#), [APL-2024-175](#)).*

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) New York State Attorney General Letitia James' Public Integrity Bureau;

- (2) New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's Division of Investigations & Inspector General;
- (3) New York State Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG);
- (4) New York State Attorney Grievance Committees of the Appellate Division Second, Third, and Fourth Departments (complaints against the other five attorney-members of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation);
- (5) New York State Inspector General Lucy Lang;
- (6) Albany County District Attorney Lee Kindlon
New York County District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

Action taken by the agency, if any:

No response from the first two, to which complaints were filed on February 5, 2025 and February 6, 2025, respectively. The complaints to the other agencies and officers are being filed today.

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 furnished by CJA's February 3, 2025 Opposition Report to the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation's misnomered November 14, 2024 “Final Report on Legislative and Executive Compensation”. The Opposition Report is filled with live hyperlinks to facilitate verification and, therefore, is best reviewed by [pdf, here linked](#).

In compliance with your requirements, a hard copy of this complaint is being mailed.

Complainant's Signature (Required): Elena RIZ NASHOVA

The foregoing complaint, with its February 3, 2025 Opposition Report,
is affirmed as true under penalties of perjury, pursuant to CPLR §2106.

February 27, 2025