

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:33 AM
To: 'Fdavie@uts.columbia.edu'; 'm@michaelcardozo.com';
'ngroenwegen@gmail.com'; 'sjames@barketepstein.com';
'claudialedwards2@gmail.com'; 'Help@whittinghamlaw.com';
'aayer@albanylaw.edu'; 'ecarni@hancocklaw.com'; 'dolly@caramanlaw.com'
Cc: 'ethics.sm.PublicHearing'; 'Compliance@grandeauassociates.com'
Subject: **Written Testimony, with Endnotes -- March 29th public hearing at NY Law School**

Attachments: [3-29-23-testimony-with-endnotes.pdf](#)

TO: COELIG Commissioners & Staff

Above-attached is the testimony I read at yesterday's hearing, with endnotes – as indicated by the below exchange between myself and Emily.

I am available to assist you in putting things back on track – and take this opportunity to commend Chair Davie for allowing me to read my testimony, in full – and for calling back Mr. Grandeau so that he might furnish further remarks.

Progress comes in small steps, but I think that was actually a big step forward – making yesterday's hearing A SUCCESS!

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:29 AM
To: 'ethics.sm.PublicHearing' <PublicHearing@ethics.ny.gov>

Subject: thank you, as well, also -- RE: Written Testimony -- March 29th public hearing at NY Law School

I'm going to re-send my written testimony to you in about a half hour, as I noticed I inadvertently dropped an endnote, when I transitioned from footnotes. Also, I've added a first endnote with the direct link to where I've posted the testimony.

Sorry for any inconvenience this might cause.

From: ethics.sm.PublicHearing <PublicHearing@ethics.ny.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:24 AM
To: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Subject: RE: Written Testimony -- March 29th public hearing at NY Law School

Thank you.

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 8:31 PM
To: ethics.sm.PublicHearing <PublicHearing@ethics.ny.gov>

Subject: Written Testimony -- March 29th public hearing at NY Law School

Dear Emily,

Attached is the written testimony I read at today's hearing, excepting the endnotes, which I did not read.

The only correction I have made to the written testimony is as to the amount of Vice-Chair Austin's and Commissioner Carni's financial interests in the judicial pay raises that underlie my July 8, 2022 complaints. [My August 4th letter](#), about which I was testifying, put the amount of their claw-back liability at "approximately three quarters of a million dollars each" (at p. 6), not the "approximately half a million dollars each" I misstated in testifying. I have, therefore, made that correction – and I think it is the more accurate estimation of the cumulative amount of judicial pay raises that Vice-Chair Austin received from April 2012 to January 2022 and Commissioner Carni received from April 2012 to February 2022, when they respectively left the bench.

CJA's webpage for the testimony is [here](#).

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 3:17 PM
To: 'ethics.sm.PublicHearing' <PublicHearing@ethics.ny.gov>

Subject: Following up to my Question -- RE: Request to testify, in person, at Mar. 29th public hearing at NY Law School -- plus FOIL request

Dear Emily,

I assume I can defer my 5-minute testimony to the end of the hearing – and I so-request for the reason I have indicated.

Thank you.

Elena

From: ethics.sm.PublicHearing <PublicHearing@ethics.ny.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 3:05 PM

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

Subject: RE: A Question -- RE: Request to testify, in person, at Mar. 29th public hearing at NY Law School -- plus FOIL request

Hi Elena,

In order to be fair to all speakers, each speaker is allotted 5 minutes to provide verbal testimony. Anything beyond that may be submitted in writing by email or in hard copy tomorrow. All written comments will be reviewed. Thank you.

Emily

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

Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 10:43 AM

To: ethics.sm.PublicHearing <PublicHearing@ethics.ny.gov>

Subject: A Question -- RE: Request to testify, in person, at Mar. 29th public hearing at NY Law School -- plus FOIL request

Following up on our below e-mail exchange yesterday, my drafted testimony is about 8-1/2 minutes and I do not believe I can cut it down further, without sacrificing intelligibility. Would it be possible to shift my time slot from 10:35 am to the end, so that the additional 3-1/2 minutes I require might be more easily accommodated, especially if ample time remains until 2 pm?

Thank you.

Elena Sassower

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

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 1:51 PM

To: 'ethics.sm.PublicHearing' <PublicHearing@ethics.ny.gov>

Cc: 'ethics.sm.records' <records@ethics.ny.gov>; 'ethics.sm.commission' <ethics@ethics.ny.gov>

Subject: Thank You -- RE: Request to testify, in person, at Mar. 29th public hearing at NY Law School -- plus FOIL request

No questions, for now.

Elena Sassower

From: ethics.sm.PublicHearing <PublicHearing@ethics.ny.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 1:22 PM

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

Cc: ethics.sm.records <records@ethics.ny.gov>; ethics.sm.commission <ethics@ethics.ny.gov>

Subject: RE: Request to testify, in person, at Mar. 29th public hearing at NY Law School -- plus FOIL request

Hi Elena,

Thank you for signing up to speak at the New York State Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government March 29 public hearing.

The hearing will be held at New York Law School located at 185 West Broadway, New York, NY 10013. The hearing starts at 10 a.m. and entry to the hearing room begins at 9:45 a.m. Please bring a state-issued photo ID to allow entry into the building.

Each speaker will be provided 5 minutes to testify. It is anticipated you will speak at approximately 10:35. Please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your speaking time. Written comments are also welcome and can be sent to PublicHearing@ethics.ny.gov.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

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

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 12:19 PM

To: ethics.sm.PublicHearing <PublicHearing@ethics.ny.gov>

Cc: ethics.sm.records <records@ethics.ny.gov>; ethics.sm.commission <ethics@ethics.ny.gov>

Subject: Request to testify, in person, at Mar. 29th public hearing at NY Law School -- plus FOIL request

TO: [Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government](#)

I request to testify, in person, at [the Commission's public hearing to be held at New York Law School this Wednesday, March 29th](#).

Additionally, as it appears that I was not among the “more than 200 people” that Executive Director Berland identified as having been notified by letter of the March 29th public meeting ([VIDEO of Commission’s March 14th meeting of its communications subcommittee, at 4 hrs, 46 mins.](#)), I request, pursuant to FOIL (Public Officers Law Article VI):

- (1) a copy of such letter and its transmitting e-mail;
- (2) records reflecting the names of the people and/or entities so-favored with direct notification, so that I might discern the criteria used;
- (3) records setting forth the criteria for direct notification;
- (4) records of notification to the press.

I take this opportunity to note that I have received no response from the Commission to my below two FOIL requests of March 17th and March 20th – and the requested items have not been posted to the Commission’s website.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 1:10 PM
To: 'records@ethics.ny.gov' <records@ethics.ny.gov>
Cc: 'ethics@ethics.ny.gov' <ethics@ethics.ny.gov>

Subject: FOIL Request: Minutes of COELIG's Oct 6, Jan 31, Feb. 28, & Mar. 14th Meetings -- plus, as requested on Mar. 17th, Complete Agenda Materials of COELIG's Feb 28th Meeting & Mar. 14th Meeting

TO: Records Access Officer – Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG)

I am unable to find the minutes for COELIG’s meetings of October 6, 2022, January 31, 2023, February 28, 2023, and March 14, 2023. Are they not posted? If not, why – and, pursuant to FOIL, furnish them to me electronically. Likewise, with respect to my March 17th FOIL request, sent by the below e-mail.

Thank you.

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

Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 3:31 PM

To: 'ethics@ethics.ny.gov' <ethics@ethics.ny.gov>

Cc: 'ethics.sm.records' <records@ethics.ny.gov>

Subject: Request for Complete Agenda Materials of the Commission's Feb 28th Meeting & of the Commission's March 14th Meeting -- Including Pursuant to FOIL

TO: Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government

ATT: Marlena Diaz

Following up the voice mail message I left for you minutes ago, after being routed to your line, the Commission's [February 28, 2023 meeting agenda materials are incomplete](#) & I cannot locate ANY posted agenda materials for the March 14, 2023 meeting, only the VIDEO, posted on [the Commission's homepage](#).

If these agenda materials are posted, kindly send me the link(s). If they are not posted, please advise why – and furnish them to me electronically, which I further request pursuant to FOIL.

Thank you.

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