

# CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.\*

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August 6, 2024

TO: The Seven NEW Law School Deans of the Independent Review Committee (IRC)

[SUNY-Buffalo Law School Dean S. Todd Brown](#)

(predecessor Aviva Abramovsky)

[Albany Law School Dean Cinnamon P. Carlarne](#)

(predecessor Alicia Ouellette)

[Brooklyn Law School Dean David D. Meyer](#)

(predecessor Michael T. Cahill)

[Fordham Law School Dean Joseph Landau](#)

(predecessor Matthew Diller)

[Hofstra Law School Dean Jenny Roberts](#)

(predecessor Gail Prudenti)

[St. John's University Law School Dean Jelani Jefferson Exum](#)

(predecessor Michael A. Simons)

[Syracuse University Law School Dean Terence J. Lau](#)

(predecessor Craig M. Boise)

FROM: Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

RE: Have Your Predecessor Law School Deans & the IRC's Other Law School Deans Apprised You of What Has Been Going On? – & IRC's Ethical, Professional, and Civic Responsibilities Going Forward, including by Intervention & as *Amicus Curiae* at the Court of Appeals in *CJA v. JCOPE, et al.*

I am the director and co-founder of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization Center for Judicial Accountability (CJA) and write to alert you to what your seven predecessor law school deans have presumably not disclosed to you, namely, that the Independent Review Committee (IRC), to which you are now members replacing them, is corrupt and has enabled an unconstitutionally-enacted Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG) to flagrantly violate [Executive Law §94\(10\)](#) and other provisions of the "ethics commission reform act of 2022" of which it is part, including by:

- purportedly [voting "to close"](#) CJA's sworn, fully-documented [July 8, 2022 complaint](#) and [October 6, 2022 supplement](#) against Attorney General Letitia James for corrupting the judicial process in *CJA v. JCOPE, et al.* ([Albany #904235-22](#)), in which COELIG and the IRC deans were and are directly interested;

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\* **Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.** (CJA) is a national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization working to ensure that safeguards are functioning to prevent judges from "throwing" cases by fraudulent judicial decisions, obliterating and falsifying facts and law – and that judicial selection and discipline processes are not, as they presently are, sham "window-dressing".

- ignoring CJA’s sworn and fully-documented [October 2, 2023 complaint](#) against COELIG’s commissioners, its executive director, general counsel, and other high-ranking staff, which simultaneously resubmitted, for COELIG’s formal reconsideration, the July 8, 2022 complaint and October 6, 2022 supplement – not acknowledged by COELIG until June 5, 2024, and this by nothing more than an “[Automatic reply](#)” e-mail to [CJA’s own June 5, 2024 e-mail](#);
- ignoring CJA’s sworn and fully-documented [January 29, 2024 complaint](#) against the members of the (3<sup>rd</sup>) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, embodying the record of *CJA v. JCOPE, et al.*, then, as now, at the Appellate Division, Third Department ([#CV-23-0115](#)) – not acknowledged by COELIG until June 5, 2024, and this by nothing more than an “[Automatic reply](#)” e-mail to [CJA’s own June 5, 2024 e-mail](#);
- failing to produce ANY records in response to CJA’s FOIL requests of [July 26, 2022](#), [November 16, 2022](#), and [December 27, 2022](#) for COELIG’s

“written procedures for receipt, docketing, acknowledgment, preliminary review, and investigation of complaints”,

rephrased on [December 5, 2023](#) and [June 5, 2024](#) as:

“written procedures/manual for receipt, docketing, acknowledgment, preliminary review, investigation of complaints, notification of disposition to complainants – and reconsideration”.

You can assess the situation for yourselves, as it is established by the open-and-shut, *prima facie* EVIDENCE posted and accessible from [CJA’s webpage for COELIG](#), including a [webpage for the IRC](#) which posts a DEVASTATING “paper trail” of my correspondence to the IRC’s 15 deans from [June 12, 2022](#) to [February 7, 2023](#), with a further [February 8, 2023 e-mail to Chair Crowell](#) for forwarding to the IRC’s other 14 law school deans.

This “paper trail” puts the LIE to the IRC’s self-promoting [March 28, 2023 “Summary of Activities”](#) and Chair Crowell’s [March 29, 2023 “Remarks”](#) at COELIG’s first annual hearing – both of which the [IRC’s website](#) posts under “News and Reports”.

Suffice to note that notwithstanding the IRC’s “Summary of Activities” states – by Chair Crowell’s prefacing signed letter to “Fellow New Yorkers” – “We will be watching COELIG’s work with great interest...” and his comparable statement at COELIG’s March 29, 2023 hearing “...we will be watching your operations and outcomes closely”, the IRC’s “News and Reports” section has no posting for 15 months – and then only Governor Hochul’s July 3, 2024 press release “[Governor Hochul Announces Nominee for the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government](#)”.

With respect to Governor Hochul’s July 3, 2024 announcement, are you aware of my comment thereto, which I made on July 10, 2024 via her web portal, as required? I received no communication from anyone about it – and there has been no announcement of “formal” nomination, either by the Governor or the IRC. Based on past experience, this means that the IRC is in process of approving “Nominee” James Caras, Esq.

The Governor’s July 3, 2024 announcement and my July 10, 2024 opposition comment are accessible from [CJA’s webpage for COELIG’s “Selection Members”](#). The direct link to its indicated webpage for Mr. Caras, posting the opposition comment, is [here](#).

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This letter is also being sent to the IRC’s six other law school deans – and to your seven predecessor law school deans whose departure from the IRC scene does not relieve them of their ethical, professional, and civic responsibilities to staunch the vast injury to the People of the State of New York and destruction of constitutional, lawful state governance which, as IRC members, they collusively abetted, ever since my first letter to them, on [June 12, 2022](#), alerting them to the then newly-commenced *CJA v. JCOPE, et al.* ([Albany Co. #904235-22](#)) and its sixth cause of action to VOID the “ethics commission reform act of 2022” because it was enacted unconstitutionally through the budget and by fraud and requesting their intervention, *amicus curiae* assistance, and scholarship.<sup>1</sup>

I am available to answer questions as to the foregoing – and to discuss the IRC’s ethical, professional, and civic responsibilities at this juncture. This includes, and I here expressly request, the IRC’s intervention and/or *amicus curiae* participation at the Court of Appeals in *CJA v. JCOPE, et al.* ([AD3-CV23-0115](#)) in support of CJA’s anticipated appeal of right to the Court of Appeals on the constitutional questions directly involved, to be combined with a motion for leave to appeal, with the case to be heard in tandem with *Cuomo v. COELIG* ([AD3-CV23-1778](#)).

The state of the record with respect to *CJA v. JCOPE, et al.* and *Cuomo v. COELIG*, the latter granted leave to appeal by the Appellate Division, Third Department, is summarized by CJA’s *sub judice* [July 4, 2024 motion](#) to the Appellate Division, whose final submission, my [July 28, 2024 reply affirmation](#), details Attorney General James’ litigation fraud on the motion.

Thank you.

s/Elena Ruth Sassower

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<sup>1</sup> This [June 12, 2022 letter](#) to the IRC’s 15 law school deans entitled “Lawsuit to VOID the ‘ethics commission reform act of 2022’ TRO to stay the statute from taking effect on July 8<sup>th</sup> – & your ethical, professional, and civic responsibilities with respect thereto...” and my [July 2, 2022 e-mail](#) to them entitled “TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE...” are part of the lower court record in *CJA v. JCOPE, et al.* (#69, #68, [#67](#), ¶¶17-18) – and appear at [R.557-568 of the Record on Appeal](#).

*cc:* The Seven Predecessor IRC Law School Deans  
IRC Chair & New York Law School Dean Anthony Crowell  
Columbia University Law School Dean Gillian Lester  
Cornell University Law School Dean Jens David Ohlin  
Touro College Law School Elena B. Langan  
Yeshiva University Cardozo Law School Dean Melanie Leslie  
New York University Law School Dean Troy McKenzie  
Pace University Law School Dean Horace E. Anderson, Jr.  
CUNY-Queens College Law School Dean Sudha Setty