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Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 10:37 PM
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Subject: **BEHIND-THE-SCENES: NY's 15 law school deans announce their vetting process for members of the JCOPE replacement -- CJA's June 12th letter & the lawsuit**

Attachments: [6-12-22-ltr-to-independent-review-committee.pdf](#)

TO: Legislative Correspondents Association Reporters

A *propos* of the vetting procedures for the new Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government, announced by New York's 15 law school deans and reported by the Albany Times Union's just-published article "[Law school deans unveil New York's new ethics system](#)".

Above-attached is my June 12th letter to those 15 deans – and below is my e-mail to the Times Union about it.

I am available to assist you with your investigative coverage – and am cc'ing NYPIRG's Blair Horner & the other "[JCOPE Must Go Coalition](#)" members, on whom you have preferred to rely so that they can respond to the [June 12th letter](#) and [the lawsuit](#).

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
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Subject: Your just published article "Law school deans unveil New York's new ethics system" (June 15, 2022, Brendan Lyons)

TO: Albany Times Union

RE: Your just published article "["Law school deans unveil New York's new ethics system"](#)" (June 15, 2022, Brendan Lyons).

Did none of your sources, including your favorite Gary Lavine, tell you about my above-attached & here linked [June 12, 2022 letter to the 15 law school deans](#), sent to them on that date – and on June 13, 2022 by the below. Will you ask the 15 deans for their responses.

And will you investigate how it is that New York Law School Dean Crowell became chair of the "independent review committee" of the "ethics commission reform act of 2022"? Did he make no disclosure to his 14 fellow law school deans of the fact that he was a member of the sham 2015 JCOPE/LEC Review Commission, which covered up and perpetuated the READILY-REMEDIAL corruption of JCOPE and LEC? [Chris Bragg wrote the article about its one and only October 14, 2015 hearing](#), furnishing a [link to the VIDEO, which has VANISHED](#), for the obvious reason that [my testimony was devastating and dispositive](#). Why don't you investigate where the hearing VIDEO is?

Details of how the JCOPE/LEC Review Commission operated – and the complicity of JCOPE and LEC therein – are recited, *inter alia*, at pp. 16-20 of my [December 17, 2021 complaint to JCOPE](#) (Exhibit B to the verified petition/complaint in the lawsuit you have yet to report, and which, when you do report it, should be accompanied by the [NYSCEF link](#) so that the public can see for itself what has gone on).

I am available to be interviewed.

Elena Sassower, Director

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 9:50 AM

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Subject: Lawsuit to VOID the "ethics commission reform act of 2022", TRO to stay the statute from taking effect on July 8th -- & your ethical, professional, & civic responsibilities with respect thereto -- CJA, et al. v. JCOPE, et al. (Albany Co. #904235-22)

TO: The "independent review committee" of the "ethics commission reform act of 2022"

SUNY-Buffalo Law School Dean Aviva Abramovsky
CUNY-Queens College Law School Interim Dean Eduardo R.C. Capulong
Incoming Dean Sudha Setty (July 1, 2022)
Albany Law School Dean Alicia Ouellette
Brooklyn Law School Dean Michael T. Cahill
Columbia University Law School Dean Gillian Lester
Cornell University Law School Dean Jens David Ohlin
Fordham Law School Dean Matthew Diller
Hofstra Law School Dean Gail Prudenti

New York Law School Dean Anthony Crowell
New York University Law School Dean Troy McKenzie
Pace University Law School Dean Horace E. Anderson, Jr.
St. John's University Law School Dean Michael A. Simons
Syracuse University Law School Dean Craig M. Boise
Touro College Law School Elena B. Langan
Yeshiva University Cardozo Law School Dean Melanie Leslie

Following up my yesterday's e-mailing to you of the above attached, [here](#) & [here](#), inadvertently omitting SUNY-Buffalo Law School Dean Abramovsky, I am sending it again to you this morning – Monday, June 13th – to further ensure that it is not overlooked, again sending it to the other cc's, from which I yesterday also inadvertently omitted Albany County Supreme Court Justice Lynch.

Below is my June 9th e-mail giving notice to respondents/defendants of the Friday, June 17th oral argument before Justice Lynch on the TRO.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, individual petitioner/plaintiff *pro se*
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
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Cc: 'shetman@nycourts.gov' <shetman@nycourts.gov>

Subject: June 17, 2022 oral argument on TRO -- CJA, et al. v. JCOPE, et al. (#904235-22/Albany County)

TO: New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) –
ATT: Sanford Berland/Executive Director
Emily Logue/Director of Investigations & Enforcement

Chair Jose Nieves
Commissioners: Gary Lavine, Sharon Gerstman,
Marvin Jacob, David McNamara
Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC) – ATT: Lisa Reid/Executive Director
New York State Inspector General (NYS-IG) – ATT: Lucy Lang/NYS-IG
Governor Kathy Hochul – ATT: [FOIL officer](#)
Temporary Senate President Andrea Stewart-Cousins & Senate –
ATT: Jellisa Joseph/Counsel to Secretary of the Senate
Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie & Assembly – ATT: Brian Haak/Counsel
Attorney General Letitia James – ATT: [AG-press](#); [Westchester Bureau Chief Andy Auja](#)
Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli – ATT: Mike Kogut/Associate Counsel

This follows my phone and e-mail communications with you and/or your offices on Tuesday, Wednesday, and today concerning the lawsuit against you, *Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., et al. v. New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, et al.*, filed in Albany County (#904235-22).

Next Friday, June 17th, at 2 p.m., oral argument will be had, in Albany County Supreme Court at 16 Eagle Street, before Justice Peter Lynch, on petitioners/plaintiffs' request for a TRO to stay the "ethics commission reform act of 2022" – Part QQ of Education, Labor, Housing, and Family Assistance Budget Bill #S.8006-C/A.9006-C – from taking effect on July 8, 2022 and to enjoin JCOPE from closing, pending final determination of the lawsuit's June 6, 2022 verified petition/complaint and its accompanying order to show cause. At issue is the sixth cause of action (¶¶78-85) that Part QQ was enacted unconstitutionally, unlawfully, and by fraud.

On June 17th, I will serve you with hard copies of the papers. In the meantime, you will not be hampered in the slightest in preparing, **fully**, for the oral argument, as all the papers are available electronically, *via* NYSCEF (New York State Courts Electronic Filing). The direct link to the electronic docket of the case is [here](#). You can also access the verified petition/complaint, the order to show cause, and my accompanying affidavit from CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org – and the direct link is [here](#). Indeed, accessing the case *via* NYSCEF and CJA's website will enable you to access the scores, if not hundreds, of substantiating links petitioners/plaintiffs' papers contain, not accessible from the hard copies.

So that I might be guided accordingly in the number of copies to reproduce – a not inconsiderable expense – please advise if you will waive service of the hard copies, as superfluous.

Justice Lynch's principal law clerk, Stehle Hetman-Mika, is herewith cc'd, as discussed with her.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, individual petitioner/plaintiff *pro se*
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