

## GUIDE FOR CORTLAND COUNTY “LOCAL JOURNALISM”

### INFORMING THE VOTERS:

#### Cortland County's D.A. Candidates Perfetti & McGrath – & its 3 Re-Election-Seeking State Legislators Oberacker, Kelles, & Gallahan, Etc.

The duty of the Cortland County D.A. is to enforce New York’s penal laws and obey conflict of interest protocols. That is the subject of the [Center for Judicial Accountability’s July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint](#) to [Cortland County D.A. Patrick Perfetti](#) involving his \$221,100 D.A. salary, statutorily-linked to the Cortland county court judge salary. Of this, \$101,300 is the product of three “false instrument”, penal law-violating commission reports that Cortland County’s three state legislators, all running for re-election, are knowledgeable of and complicit in.

[D.A. Perfetti is also running for re-election](#), on both Republican and Conservative lines. Running against him, on Democratic and Republican lines, is [D.A. Candidate Elizabeth McGrath](#), to whom, on July 24<sup>th</sup>, I sent the below e-mail, forwarding to her the July 18<sup>th</sup> e-mail I had sent to D.A. Perfetti with the grand jury/public corruption complaint. Both were requested to respond to two simple questions by August 1<sup>st</sup>:

- (1) whether they would repudiate the \$101,300 salary difference and advise Cortland County to secure a judicial declaration voiding the three “false instrument”, penal law-violating commission reports?;
- (2) whether they would recuse themselves from the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint pertaining thereto and securing an independent prosecutor.

Neither D.A. Perfetti nor D.A. Candidate McGrath have responded. Surely, however, they will be more responsive to inquiries from you – and they are ready to field them, as I sent them e-mails alerting them to press inquiries.

What do they have to say about the \$221,100 Cortland County D.A. salary – and about Cortland County’s state legislators whose public corruption is prioritized by the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint (at p. 2). Will they disclose their political, professional, and personal relationships with them – and with the other public officers complained-against and implicated by the grand jury/public corruption complaint?

And can these two D.A candidates explain how it is possible that with [state legislator salaries being the highest in the nation, \\$142,000](#), plus, as with D.A. salaries, many thousands of dollars more in non-salary compensation benefits, and despite the fact that, according to 2022 statistics, [Cortland County has a population of 46,755 and median household income of \\$65,029](#):

- [Assemblywoman Anna Kelles \(AD125\)](#) is uncontested in her re-election and is running on both Democratic and Working Families lines for which she faced no primaries for either line;
- [Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan \(AD131\)](#) is uncontested in his re-election and is running on both Democratic and Working Families lines for which he faced no primaries for either line;
- [Senator Peter Oberacker \(SD51\)](#) is running on both Republican and Conservative lines for which he faced no primaries for either line, against [Michele Frazier](#), running on both Democratic and Working Families lines for which she faced no primaries for either line.

Indeed, D.A. Perfetti himself faced no primaries for the Republican and Conservative lines on which he is running and D.A. Candidate McGrath faced no primaries for the Democratic and Conservative lines on which she is running. How do they explain that?

I look forward to discussing with you the above questions and assisting your investigative journalism about Cortland County's D.A. race, state legislative races, and three judicial races from supreme court to city court – all involving “false instrument”, penal law-violating salaries for these offices. Meantime, here's [CJA's webpage for the 2024 Cortland County D.A. election](#).

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 1:58 PM  
**To:** 'Team@AshleyWilliamsForDA.com' <[Team@AshleyWilliamsForDA.com](mailto:Team@AshleyWilliamsForDA.com)>;  
'McGrathForDA@gmail.com' <[McGrathForDA@gmail.com](mailto:McGrathForDA@gmail.com)>

**Subject: GOOD NEWS! You Can Win Your Livingston & Cortland D.A. Races & Demonstrate Your fitness for the Office: NOTICE & Grand Jury/Public Corruption Complaint**

**Attachments:**                    [7-18-24-daasny-notice-complaint.pdf](#);  
   [7-17-24-complaint-vs-soares-to-albany-ethics.pdf](#);  
   [7-17-24-transmittal-to-soares.pdf](#)

**TO:**     [Would-Be Livingston County D.A. Ashley Williams](#)  
         [Would be Cortland County D.A. Elizabeth McGrath](#)

I am director and co-founder of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), which, for several decades, has documented the collusion of all three branches of our state government in the subversion and collapse of lawful, constitutional governance. New York's 62 D.A.s, whose duty it is to enforce the state's penal laws, including against law-breaking public officers, are key participants in this.

Only five of this year's 14 D.A. races are contested and, among them, your two D.A. races against incumbent Livingston County D.A. McCaffrey and incumbent Cortland County D.A. Perfetti.

The GOOD NEWS is that you can easily win – and without money – against them simply by using the bully-pulpit of your candidacies to “whistle-blow” about the public corruption involving D.A. salaries that they have each known about, perpetuated, and benefitted from since 2016. This is the subject of my below July 18<sup>th</sup> e-mail to them and their fellow 60 D.A.s. entitled “NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint – Your D.A. salary increases, the judicial salary increases on which they are based, & the violations of NY penal laws by state legislators within your jurisdictions”, requesting their answers, by August 1<sup>st</sup>, to two simple questions:

- (3) whether they will be repudiating their state-mandated D.A. salary increases, paid from their county budgets, because they are based on three “false instrument”, penal law-violating commission reports increasing judicial salaries;
- (4) confirmation that they will be recusing themselves from CJA’s July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint pertaining thereto and securing an independent prosecutor.

If elected, what would your answers be? Please let me hear from you by August 1<sup>st</sup> so that, based on your answers, Livingston and Cortland county voters can be apprised as to whether write-in campaigns must be launched for suitable D.A. candidates who will abide by their duty of enforcing New York’s penal laws, without fear or favor, including by recusing themselves when they are compromised by self-interest and relationships.

I am available to answer questions, including as to the particulars of my communications with D.A.s McCaffrey and Perfetti.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2024 8:49 PM  
**To:** 'president@daasny.org' <[president@daasny.org](mailto:president@daasny.org)>; 'mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov' <[mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov](mailto:mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov)>; 'david.soares@albanycountyny.gov' <[david.soares@albanycountyny.gov](mailto:david.soares@albanycountyny.gov)>; 'ian.jones@alleganyco.com' <[ian.jones@alleganyco.com](mailto:ian.jones@alleganyco.com)>; 'clarkda@bronxda.nyc.gov' <[clarkda@bronxda.nyc.gov](mailto:clarkda@bronxda.nyc.gov)>; 'paul.battisti@broomecounty.us' <[paul.battisti@broomecounty.us](mailto:paul.battisti@broomecounty.us)>; 'LPRieman@cattco.org' <[LPRieman@cattco.org](mailto:LPRieman@cattco.org)>; 'bantonacci@cayugacounty.us' <[bantonacci@cayugacounty.us](mailto:bantonacci@cayugacounty.us)>; 'schmidtj@chqgov.com' <[schmidtj@chqgov.com](mailto:schmidtj@chqgov.com)>; 'wwetmore@chemungcountyny.gov' <[wwetmore@chemungcountyny.gov](mailto:wwetmore@chemungcountyny.gov)>; 'mferrarese@co.chenango.ny.us' <[mferrarese@co.chenango.ny.us](mailto:mferrarese@co.chenango.ny.us)>; 'andrew.wylie@clintoncountygov.com' <[andrew.wylie@clintoncountygov.com](mailto:andrew.wylie@clintoncountygov.com)>; 'districtattorney@columbiacountyny.gov' <[districtattorney@columbiacountyny.gov](mailto:districtattorney@columbiacountyny.gov)>; 'pperfetti@cortland-co.org' <[pperfetti@cortland-co.org](mailto:pperfetti@cortland-co.org)>; 'shawn.smith@co.delaware.ny.us' <[shawn.smith@co.delaware.ny.us](mailto:shawn.smith@co.delaware.ny.us)>; 'aparisi@co.dutchessny.gov' <[aparisi@co.dutchessny.gov](mailto:aparisi@co.dutchessny.gov)>; 'Michael.Keane@erie.gov' <[Michael.Keane@erie.gov](mailto:Michael.Keane@erie.gov)>; 'Kristy.Sprague@essexcountyny.gov' <[Kristy.Sprague@essexcountyny.gov](mailto:Kristy.Sprague@essexcountyny.gov)>; 'elizabeth.crawford@franklincountyny.gov' <[elizabeth.crawford@franklincountyny.gov](mailto:elizabeth.crawford@franklincountyny.gov)>; 'mpoulin@fultoncountyny.gov' <[mpoulin@fultoncountyny.gov](mailto:mpoulin@fultoncountyny.gov)>; 'kevin.finnell@co.genesee.ny.us' <[kevin.finnell@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:kevin.finnell@co.genesee.ny.us)>; 'jstanzione@discovergreene.com' <[jstanzione@discovergreene.com](mailto:jstanzione@discovergreene.com)>; 'mpurdue@hamiltoncountyny.gov' <[mpurdue@hamiltoncountyny.gov](mailto:mpurdue@hamiltoncountyny.gov)>; 'jcarpenter@herkimercounty.org' <[jcarpenter@herkimercounty.org](mailto:jcarpenter@herkimercounty.org)>; 'krystinam@co.jefferson.ny.us' <[krystinam@co.jefferson.ny.us](mailto:krystinam@co.jefferson.ny.us)>; 'gonzalee@brooklynda.org' <[gonzalee@brooklynda.org](mailto:gonzalee@brooklynda.org)>; 'jefftompkins@lewiscounty.ny.gov' <[jefftompkins@lewiscounty.ny.gov](mailto:jefftompkins@lewiscounty.ny.gov)>; 'GMcCaffrey@co.livingston.ny.us' <[GMcCaffrey@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:GMcCaffrey@co.livingston.ny.us)>; 'william.gabor@madisoncounty.ny.gov' <[william.gabor@madisoncounty.ny.gov](mailto:william.gabor@madisoncounty.ny.gov)>;

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Cc: 'morgan.bitton@daasny.org' <[morgan.bitton@daasny.org](mailto:morgan.bitton@daasny.org)>

**Subject: NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint -- Your D.A. salary increases, the judicial salary increases on which they are based, & the violations of NY penal laws by state legislators within your jurisdictions**

**District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY)**

**ATT: President/Richmond County D.A. Michael McMahon  
NYS' 61 Other D.A. and Acting D.A. Members**

Above-attached are CJA's July 18, 2024 NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint and underlying July 17, 2024 ethics complaint to the Albany County Ethics Commission against Albany County D.A. Soares and its accompanying transmittal letter to him.

So that I may be guided accordingly, please let me hear from each of you by no later than two weeks from today, August 1, 2024, with respect to both the NOTICE and July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint, herewith filed with you.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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