

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewidth.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 2:09 PM  
**To:** 'tmagnarelli@wskg.org'; 'aberry@wskg.org'; 'news@wskg.org'  
**Cc:** 'MVH@tompkins-co.org'

**Subject:** **INFORMING THE VOTERS: Tompkins County's Re-Election-Seeking D.A. Van Houten & its Re-Election-Seeking State Legislators Kelles & Webb, etc.**

**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:** [WSKG](#)

Tom Magnarelli, News Director  
Aurora Berry, Ithaca Reporter/Producer

The duty of the Tompkins County D.A. is to enforce New York's penal laws and obey conflict of interest protocols. This is the subject of the Center for Judicial Accountability's above-attached July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint to Tompkins County D.A. Matthew Van Houten, sent to him by the below e-mail. It involves his \$221,100 D.A. salary, statutorily-linked to the Tompkins county court judge salary. Of this, \$101,300 is the product of three "false instrument", penal law-violating commission reports that Tompkins County's two state legislators, Assemblywoman Anna Kelles and Senator Lea Webb, each running for re-election, are knowledgeable of and complicit in.

D.A. Van Houten, who is also running for re-election, has not responded to the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint, which requested his response by August 1<sup>st</sup> to two simple questions:

- (1) whether he would be repudiating the \$101,300 salary difference and advising Tompkins County to secure a judicial declaration voiding the three "false instrument", penal law-violating commission reports?;
- (2) whether he would be recusing himself from the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint and securing an independent prosecutor?

As D.A. Van Houten would surely be more responsive to inquiries from WSKG, I am cc'ing him. What does he have to say about the \$221,100 Tompkins County D.A. salary – and about Tompkins County's state legislators whose public corruption is prioritized by the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint (at p. 2). Will he disclose his 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 he explain how it is possible that in a county which, according to 2022 statistics, has a population of 102,555 and a median household income of \$69,995 and where the state legislative salaries are the highest in the nation, \$142,000 – plus, as with D.A. salaries, many thousands of dollars in non-salary compensation benefits –

- Assemblywoman Kelles is running unopposed for re-election on Democratic and Working Families lines for which she faced no primary for either line;

- Senator is Webb is running for re-election on Democratic and Working Families lines for which she faced no primary for either line; and
- D.A. Van Houten is himself running for re-election unopposed on Democratic and Working Families lines for which he faced no primary for either line.

I look forward to discussing with you the above questions and your election reporting about Tompkins County's D.A. race, state legislative races, and judicial races – all involving “false instrument”, penal law-violating salaries for these offices.

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)>; 'sdoorley@monroecounty.gov' <[sdoorley@monroecounty.gov](mailto:sdoorley@monroecounty.gov)>; 'ldiamond@da.montgomery.ny.us' <[ldiamond@da.montgomery.ny.us](mailto:ldiamond@da.montgomery.ny.us)>; 'Anne.donnely@nassauda.org' <[Anne.donnely@nassauda.org](mailto:Anne.donnely@nassauda.org)>; 'bragga@dany.nyc.gov' <[bragga@dany.nyc.gov](mailto:bragga@dany.nyc.gov)>; 'brian.seaman@niagaracounty.com' <[brian.seaman@niagaracounty.com](mailto:brian.seaman@niagaracounty.com)>; 'tcarville@ocgov.net' <[tcarville@ocgov.net](mailto:tcarville@ocgov.net)>; 'williamfitzpatrick@ongov.net' <[williamfitzpatrick@ongov.net](mailto:williamfitzpatrick@ongov.net)>; 'james.ritts@ontariocountyny.gov'

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**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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