

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 9:36 AM
To: 'dyoung@wxxi.org'; 'newsroom@wxxi.org'; 'wxxi@wxxi.org'
Cc: 'david@ncpr.org'; 'kdewitt@wxxi.org'
Subject: **Your "Local Journalism" & State Reporting -- "Politically-Explosive Election Story Impacting the D.A., State Legislative, and Judicial Races in WXXI's Counties of Coverage"**

TO: [Denise Young WXXI Executive Editor/News](#)

I have received no response to my below August 19th and 20th e-mails, sent to WXXI's posted generic e-mail addresses, inquiring as to the counties covered by WXXI and bearing the subject line: "Politically-Explosive Election Story Impacting the D.A., State Legislative, and Judicial Races in WXXI's Counties of Coverage". Are you aware of this?

Coincidentally, about 10 minutes after I sent the August 19th e-mail, I got a call back from David Sommerstein/News & Public Affairs Director at North Country Public Radio, responding to a voice mail message I had left at NCPR, inquiring as to the counties within its broadcast and reporting range, in whole or part – information he readily supplied (Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Hamilton, Clinton, Essex, Warren, Washington, Herkimer).

In the course of the conversation, in which I brought to his attention my [August 15th e-mail to NCPR pertaining to Herkimer County's elections for D.A. and state legislators](#), I asked him who was covering Albany and state news for New York Public Radio. He replied that it was you, on an interim basis, until a replacement was hired for Karen DeWitt, as you had been Ms. DeWitt's editor. I asked him for your direct e-mail address, which he furnished.

Are you, in fact, handling Albany and state news, on an interim basis, for New York Public Radio? And how are you doing that? Are you aware that the [Legislative Correspondents Association roster](#) still lists Ms. DeWitt's name and her e-mail address: kdewitt@wxxi.org. Are you picking up her e-mails or are they being routed to you? Were you aware of my two most recent e-mails to Ms. DeWitt and her LCA colleagues:

- [my August 1st e-mail](#) bearing the subject line: "HEADS UP! -- The Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct was Caught Attempting to Subvert its Statutory Mandate by Violative Rules -- & the Legislature & its Sham Administrative Regulations Review Commission Have Been Abetting It";
- [my August 15th e-mail](#) bearing the subject line: "INFORMING THE VOTERS: NY's Most Important D.A. Race -- for Albany D.A. -- Upending NY's 13 Other D.A. Races, 213 State Legislative Races, & Judicial Races".

Please advise – including as to your news judgement of these fully-documented August 1st and August 15th e-mails. Is there any question that they present explosive, major news for investigation and reporting by New York Public Radio and by its New York Public News Network, whose most extensive description,

including from you, seems to be in the January 17, 2024 article in [Current](#), "[New York stations team up on news network](#)", identifying that its "first initiative [would be] to apply for [a grant from CPB](#) to add a shared capitol reporter in Albany". It's now eight months later. What's the status of that application?

As it appears from the WXXI "[Broadcast Coverage](#)" webpage – and from the additional webpage I found on the [WXXI public media org website](#) – that Orleans and Wyoming counties are within WXXI news reporting purview, in addition to Wayne and Livingston counties which are expressly part of your "Greater Rochester Metro region", I will now send you four separate e-mails pertaining to the D.A. and state legislator elections in each of those four counties – comparable to what I furnished to Mr. Sommerstein and NCPR on August 15th pertaining by Herkimer County and discussed with him in our August 19th phone conversation. Although WXXI appears to have some reach into Tompkins County, I will forego sending you an e-mail about its D.A. and state legislator elections, as I have already sent e-mails to the more geographically proximate WRVO and WSKG, on [August 13th](#) and [August 19th](#), respectively.

While writing this e-mail, I have googled you and found a [WXXI Management Team](#) webpage with your 585-258-0263 phone number listed. When would it be convenient for me to call so that we can discuss these stories – and a related, equally explosive and far-reaching story about two of the four supreme court justice candidates in your [2024 Election Guide for Monroe County](#) who will also be on the ballots of the other seven counties of the 7th Judicial District: Wayne, Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Yates, Cayuga, and Steuben. Can we set up something before the next scheduled weekly meeting of the New York Public News Network, as reported by [WRVO](#), [WSKG](#), [NCPR](#).

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>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 3:20 PM
To: 'wxxi@wxxi.org' <wxxi@wxxi.org>; 'newsroom@wxxi.org' <newsroom@wxxi.org>

Subject: Overlooked? -- Politically-Explosive Election Story Impacting the D.A., State Legislative, and Judicial Races in WXXI's Counties of Coverage

TO: [WXXI](#)
Randy Gorbman, Director of News & Public Affairs
Brian Sharp, Investigations & Enterprise Editor
Denise Young, Executive Editor

I have not received any response to my below e-mail, sent yesterday morning. Has it been overlooked? Please advise.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower

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

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 10:34 AM

To: 'wxxi@wxxi.org' <wxxi@wxxi.org>; 'newsroom@wxxi.org' <newsroom@wxxi.org>

Subject: Politically-Explosive Election Story Impacting the D.A., State Legislative, and Judicial Races in WXXI's Counties of Coverage

TO: [WXXI](#)

Randy Gorbman, Director of News & Public Affairs

Brian Sharp, Investigations & Enterprise Editor

Denise Young, Executive Editor

I cannot find phone numbers or e-mail addresses for you on the difficult-to-find [“Staff”](#) webpage. The phone number 585-258-0200 on the [“Contact Us”](#) webpage is for “the Membership Department” – at least according to the voice mail that picked up when I called a short time ago.

Kindly furnish me with your e-mail addresses as I have a politically-explosive election story, impacting the district attorney, state legislative, and judicial races in ALL the counties within your broadcast range, as best I am able to discern from the WXXI [“Broadcast Coverage”](#) webpage. Most immediately, please advise as to whether elections in Orleans, Wyoming, and Tompkins counties are within the area of your news reporting.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director

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