

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2024 4:33 PM  
**To:** 'ahayes@wmht.org'; 'wpedigo@wmht.org'; 'vbelden@wmht.org';  
'email@wmht.org'  
**Cc:** 'SDestra@wmht.com'; 'ekline@lillybroadcasting.com'  
**Subject:** **WMHT's New York NOW -- & Its Partnership in WNET's "Preserving Democracy" Initiative, etc.**

**TO:** [WMHT](#)

Anthony Hayes, President & CEO  
Will Pedigo, Vice President, Chief Content & Engagement Officer  
Valerie Belden, Special Assistant to the CEO & Board Liaison

I have received no response to my below August 19<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup> emails – and assume this is because you have not responded and that it is intentional.

As WHMT's broadcast and reporting range is, obviously, Albany County – and, reasonably, all or parts of Montgomery and Herkimer counties – I will be sending you three e-mails pertaining to the district attorney and state legislative and judicial elections in each of those counties – cc'ing Shantel Destra, your managing editor and host of [New York NOW](#), to whom I sent two e-mails on August 19<sup>th</sup>, without response from her to major stories that one would reasonable expect to be so-recognized by New York NOW:

- [the first](#), transmitted to her my August 15<sup>th</sup> e-mail to the LCA roster of reporters, entitled "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"; and
- [the second](#), transmitted to her my August 1<sup>st</sup> e-mail to the LCA roster of reporters, entitled "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";

Although Ms. Destra is among the [LCA's roster of reporters](#), indeed, is additionally identified as "LCA Secretary", my original e-mails to her bounced back because her listed e-mail address "[SDestra@wmht.com](#)" is plainly erroneous and should be [SDestra@wmht.org](#). This has still NOT been corrected, four days after I pointed this out [[photo](#)].

Curiously, New York NOW's website does not contain e-mail addresses of the two-member "TEAM" of Ms. Destra and Elise Kline, but only WMHT's generic [email@wmht.org](#). Ms. Kline is also listed on the LCA roster, though not as affiliated with WMHT, but, rather, with "Lilly Broadcasting", at an e-mail address of [ekline@lillybroadcasting.com](#) [[photo](#)]. My August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> e-mails sent to her did not bounce back.

If, upon your review of the above August 15<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> e-mails and the three e-mails I will be sending you pertaining to the elections in Albany, Montgomery, and Herkimer counties, there is not an overwhelming consensus that the information and evidence they present belong, pronto, on New York NOW or other journalism endeavors with which WMHT is affiliated, as, for instance WNET's "[Preserving Democracy](#)" Initiative, to which WMHT is an identified partner, or the [New York Public News Network](#), to which WNET is an identified member, I request that all five e-mails be IMMEDIATELY forwarded to [WMHT's Board of Trustees](#) for their oversight of your news judgment – and, if necessary, put on the agenda of its September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

I am available to answer questions, including over the weekend, no matter how early or late.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 1:15 PM

**To:** 'ahayes@wmht.org' <[ahayes@wmht.org](mailto:ahayes@wmht.org)>; 'wpedigo@wmht.org' <[wpedigo@wmht.org](mailto:wpedigo@wmht.org)>;  
'vbelden@wmht.org' <[vbelden@wmht.org](mailto:vbelden@wmht.org)>; 'email@wmht.org' <[email@wmht.org](mailto:email@wmht.org)>

**Cc:** 'SDestra@wmht.org' <[SDestra@wmht.org](mailto:SDestra@wmht.org)>

**Subject: REMINDER -- What NYS counties are within WMHT's reporting & broadcast range -- and, specifically, do they include Montgomery & Herkimer Counties, in whole or in part?**

**TO:** [WMHT](#)

Anthony Hayes, President & CEO

Will Pedigo, Vice President, Chief Content & Engagement Officer

Valerie Belden, Special Assistant to the CEO & Board Liaison

I've received no response to my below e-mail, sent two days ago. Surely the question is not a difficult one.

Please advise – and especially with respect to Montgomery and Herkimer Counties.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower

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

**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 12:27 PM

To: 'ahayes@wmht.org' <[ahayes@wmht.org](mailto:ahayes@wmht.org)>; 'wpedigo@wmht.org' <[wpedigo@wmht.org](mailto:wpedigo@wmht.org)>;  
'vbelden@wmht.org' <[vbelden@wmht.org](mailto:vbelden@wmht.org)>; 'email@wmht.org' <[email@wmht.org](mailto:email@wmht.org)>  
Cc: 'SDestra@wmht.org' <[SDestra@wmht.org](mailto:SDestra@wmht.org)>

**Subject: What NYS counties are within WMHT's reporting & broadcast range -- and, specifically, do they include Montgomery & Herkimer Counties, in whole or in part?**

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Anthony Hayes, President & CEO  
Will Pedigo, Vice President, Chief Content & Engagement Officer  
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The “[Broadcast Coverage Map](#)” on the [WMHT website](#) says that you “serve Eastern New York”, but does not specify the counties. Kindly identify the counties in “Eastern New York” that WMHT serves, in whole or in part – and, specifically, whether you report on, and/or broadcast to, Montgomery and Herkimer Counties, which – as with Albany County – have [D.A races this year](#).

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
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914-421-1200  
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