

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2024 5:00 PM

**To:** 'ahayes@wmht.org'; 'wpedigo@wmht.org'; 'vbelden@wmht.org';  
'email@wmht.org'; 'SDestra@wmht.org'; 'ekline@lillybroadcasting.com'

**Cc:** 'jcarpenter@herkimercounty.org'

**Subject:** **INFORMING THE VOTERS: Herkimer County's Uncontested Re-Election-Seeking D.A. Carpenter & its 4 Re-Election Seeking State Legislators, 2 Uncontested, 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:** [WMHT](#)

Anthony Hayes, President & CEO  
Will Pedigo, Vice President, Chief Content & Engagement Officer  
Valerie Belden, Special Assistant to the CEO & Board Liaison  
Shantel Destra, Managing Editor & Host/New York NOW  
Elise Kline, Multimedia Journalist/New York NOW

The duty of the Herkimer 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 above-attached and here-linked [July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint](#) to [Herkimer County D.A. Jeffrey Carpenter](#), sent to him by the below e-mail. It involves his \$221,100 D.A. salary, statutorily-tied to the Herkimer county court judge salary. Of this, \$101,300 is the product of three "false instrument", penal law-violating commission reports that Herkimer County's four state legislators, all running for re-election, are knowledgeable of and complicit in.

D.A. Carpenter is himself running for re-election – did not respond to the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint, requesting 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 Herkimer 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?

D.A. Carpenter will surely be more responsive to inquiries from you – and I am cc'ing him on this e-mail so that he can be fully prepared.

What does he have to say about the \$221,100 Herkimer County D.A. salary – and about Herkimer County's state legislators whose public corruption is prioritized by the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint (at pp. 2-4). 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 D.A. Carpenter explain how it is possible that notwithstanding [Herkimer County has a population of 60,293 and median household income of \\$68,104](#) and [state legislator salaries are the highest in the nation, \\$142,000](#), on top of which, as with D.A. salaries, are many thousands of dollars more in non-salary compensation benefits:

- [Senator Mark Walczyk \(SD49\)](#) is uncontested for re-election and is running on both Republican and Conservative lines for which he faced no primaries for either line;
- [Assemblyman Robert Smullen \(AD118\)](#) is uncontested for re-election and is running on both Republican and Conservative lines for which he faced no primaries for either line;
- [Senator Joe Griffo \(SD53\)](#) is running for re-election on both Republican and Conservative lines for which he faced no primaries for either line, against [James Meyers](#), running on both Democratic and Working Families lines for which he faced no primaries for either line;
- [Assembly Brian Miller \(AD122\)](#) is running for re-election on both Republican and Conservative lines for which he faced no primaries for either line, against [Adrienne Martini](#), running on both Democratic and Working Families lines for which she faced no primaries for either line.

D.A. Carpenter himself is uncontested for re-election and faced no primaries for the Republican and Conservative lines on which he is running. Can he explain how this is possible?

I look forward to discussing with you the above questions and assisting your investigative journalism about Herkimer County's D.A. race, four state legislative races, and 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 Herkimer County D.A. election](#).

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)>;

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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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