

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 3:53 PM

To: 'akash@nysfocus.com'; 'rebecca@nysfocus.com'; 'cbragg@nysfocus.com'; 'maha@nysfocus.com'; 'chris@nysfocus.com'; 'spencer@nysfocus.com'; 'sam@nysfocus.com'; 'editor@nysfocus.com'

Cc: 'karen@inn.org'; 'lisa@inn.org'; 'courtney@inn.org'; 'jonathan@inn.org'; 'soraya@inn.org'; 'sharene@inn.org'; 'sam@inn.org'; 'devon@inn.org'; 'kemuel@inn.org'; 'andrew@inn.org'; 'hope@inn.org'; 'bia@inn.org'; 'chip@inn.org'; 'cynthia@inn.org'; 'alana@inn.org'; 'emily@inn.org'; 'stephanie@inn.org'; 'jordan@inn.org'; 'meta@inn.org'; 'ha@inn.org'; 'jasmyne@inn.org'; 'info@inn.org'

Subject: **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**

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: [New York Focus](#)

Akash Mehta, Editor-in-Chief
Rebecca Klein, Publisher
Chris Bragg, Albany Bureau Chief
Maha Ahmed, Senior Editor
Chris Gelardi, Criminal Justice Investigator
Spencer Norris, Investigative Reporting
Sam Mellins, Senior Reporter

I received no response to my below August 27, 2024 e-mail, with its above-three attachments, sent to correct e-mail addresses for Editor-in-Chief Mehta and Criminal Justice Investigator Gelardi.

In the event, it did not reach the rest of you – albeit I did not get bounce-backs – you have it **now** for your investigative journalism, in keeping with your [self-description](#) as “an independent nonprofit newsroom investigating power in the Empire State”, whose “in-depth journalism...explains how the state really works”. As your [“Team” webpage](#) no longer lists Neil DeMause as “Interim Managing Editor”, or in any capacity, I have removed his name. Apparently, you have no managing editor, interim or otherwise.

If you are not planning to investigate and report the below-recited, fully-documented, major story about the D.A. candidates in the ALL-IMPORTANT Albany County D.A. race, please advise why and IMMEDIATELY forward this e-mail to ALL members of your [Board of Directors](#) so that they can be apprised of the situation and direct you consistent with New York Focus’ stated mission and status as a nonprofit news organization, receiving public and philanthropic contributions and tax-exemptions. To enable the Board to have the FULL context, below linked are:

- my [June 16, 2023 e-mail to you](#) forwarding the [June 16, 2023 complaint](#) I had filed against [New York Focus](#) with the [Institute for Nonprofit News \(INN\)](#), whose particulars are set forth in six “case studies” at pages 26-41 of the complaint;
- my [March 24, 2024 e-mail to Mr. Bragg](#) entitled “Your Reporting on the NYS Budget, the Judicial Pay Raises, & the 2024 Elections for ALL 213 Legislative Seats, starting with Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins & Assembly Speaker Heastie”, to which you were all cc’d to expedite “supervisory and remedial action”.

Although the e-mail addresses were all correct on these two e-mails, I have no record of responses to either.

For completeness, In the event Mr. Bragg did not receive my two August e-mails to Legislative Correspondents Association reporters – notwithstanding I got no bounce-back of my error in his listed e-mail address – they are below linked:

- my [August 1, 2024 e-mail](#) 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”; and
- my [August 15, 2024 e-mail](#) – largely identical to my below August 27, 2024 e-mail and identically entitled.

Meantime, I am cc’ing INN by way of follow-up and supplement to my June 16, 2023 complaint.

I am available to assist you, to the max, in discharging your mission and professional and ethical duties. You can call me, anytime, no matter how early or late.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgewatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 3:33 PM
To: 'neil@nyfocus.com' <neil@nyfocus.com>; 'rebecca@nyfocus.com' <rebecca@nyfocus.com>; 'akash@nysfocus.com' <akash@nysfocus.com>; 'cbragg@nyfocus.com' <cbragg@nyfocus.com>; 'maha@nyfocus.com' <maha@nyfocus.com>; 'chris@nysfocus.com' <chris@nysfocus.com>; 'spencer@nyfocus.com' <spencer@nyfocus.com>; 'sam@nyfocus.com' <sam@nyfocus.com>; 'julia@nyfocus.com' <julia@nyfocus.com>; 'alex@nyfocus.com' <alex@nyfocus.com>

Subject: 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

TO: [New York Focus](#)

Neil DeMause, Interim Managing Editor
Rebecca Klein, Publisher
Akash Mehta, Editor in Chief
Chris Bragg, Albany Bureau Chief
Maha Ahmed, Senior Editor
Chris Gelardi, Criminal Justice Investigator
Spencer Norris, Investigative Reporting
Sam Mellins, Senior Reporter

Of New York's 62 district attorneys, none is more important to ensuring the integrity of state governance than the Albany County D.A. whose geographic jurisdiction over the state capital means criminal jurisdiction over all 4 statewide-elected executive officers, all 213 state legislators, all 7 judges of the New York Court of Appeals, all justices of the Albany-based Appellate Division, Third Department and Albany Supreme Court, and such Albany-headquartered "public protection" entities as the State Inspector General, the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (formerly the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE)), and the Commission on Judicial Conduct, with an Albany office.

That is the subject of the Center for Judicial Accountability's below July 24, 2024 e-mail to Albany County D.A. Candidate Ambrosio, running on the Republican and Conservative lines, and cc'ing Albany County D.A. Candidate Kindlon, running on the Democratic and Working Family lines. It forwarded to them the above-attached July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint, filed with New York's 62 D.A.s, chronicling Albany D.A. Soares's corruption, in office, from 2013 to date. As issue is his flagrant violation of his penal law-enforcing duties with respect to fully-documented public corruption complaints against New York's highest executive, legislative, and judicial officers pertaining to the state budget and pay raises that are the product of "false instrument" penal law-violating commission reports.

The July 24, 2024 e-mail asked D.A. Candidates Ambrosio and Kindlon two simple questions – and requested their answers by August 1st:

- (1) whether, if elected, they would repudiate the Albany D.A. salary increases arising from these "false instrument", penal law-violating commission reports;
- (2) whether, if elected, they would recuse themselves from CJA's July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint pertaining thereto and secure an independent prosecutor.

There has been no response from D.A. Candidates Ambrosio and Kindlon – nor from D.A. Soares, a recipient of the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint who, having lost to Candidate Kindlon in the June 25th Democratic primary, has, since July 17th, been running for re-election as a write-in candidate.

As all three D.A. candidates would surely be more responsive to you, I am cc'ing them so that they can prepare themselves for your inquiries.

I look forward to discussing with you my first-hand experience with these posturing, unfit D.A. candidates, as documented by the below, with the above-attached – rightfully upending the Albany County D.A. race and, additionally, each of New York’s 13 other D.A. races, the races for all 213 state legislative seats, and all judicial races, from supreme court down to city court – all involving “false instrument”, penal law-violating salaries for these offices, the cost of which, to date, is nearing one billion dollars.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgewatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 3:49 PM
To: 'ralph@ralphambrosioforda.com' <ralph@ralphambrosioforda.com>
Cc: 'campaign@kindlonforalbanyda.com' <campaign@kindlonforalbanyda.com>

Subject: GOOD NEWS! You Can Easily Win the Albany D.A. Race & Demonstrate Your Fitness for the Office: NOTICE & Grand Jury/Public Corruption Complaint

TO: [Would-Be Albany County D.A. Ralph Ambrosio](#)

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 – and none more so than Albany County D.A. Soares, whose geographic jurisdiction over the capital means criminal jurisdiction over all four statewide-elected executive officers, all 213 state legislators, the 7 judges of the Court of Appeals, the Albany-based Appellate Division, Third Department, Albany Supreme Court, and such Albany-headquartered “public protection” entities as the State Inspector General, the former Joint Commission on Public Ethics (now Commission on Ethics & Lobbying in Government), and the Commission on Judicial Conduct, with an Albany office.

Only five of this year’s 14 D.A. races are contested, the Albany D.A. race, among them – and it is the only one with a write-in candidacy, announced by D.A. Soares, last week, after his defeat in the June 25th Democratic Party D.A. primary to Mr. Kindlon, who also has the Working Families line.

The good news is that you, the Republican Party’s candidate, can easily win – and without money – against Mr. Kindlon, as he is a shameless posturer, unworthy of the D.A. office he seeks because he has been covering up D.A. Soares’ corruption in office, of which he has had the open-and-shut, *prima facie* evidence since March 23rd. That was when I sent him a [March 23rd message](#), via his law office website, entitled “You Can Easily Defeat Albany D.A. Soares” stating, in pertinent part:

“...DA Soares has flagrantly corrupted his office in matters pertaining to public corruption -- and this has been the subject of public corruption complaints I have filed to him, against him, and of FOIL requests, spanning from 2013 to the present. CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, posts everything – accessible from the prominent center link ‘Cleaning up NY's Corrupt & Unconstitutional State Governance – starting with its most important D.A race: Albany County’. I look forward to speaking with you about the mountain of primary-source, documentary evidence there posted, establishing that D.A. Soares cannot be re-elected, because he must be indicted for public corruption, including larceny involving his own D.A. salary – and that he will be convicted....”

I received no response to this message – and two months later, on May 28th, after calling his law office, sent him [a second message](#), reading in pertinent part:

"This follows up my phone call to your office (518-444-428), shortly after 11 am, which was picked up by your assistant AJ. The reason for my call was to inquire as to whether you had had received the March 23rd message I sent you, via this message system, entitled ‘You Can Easily Defeat Albany D.A. Soares’ – to which I had received no response. AJ stated she had no access to your message system and, therefore, could not confirm receipt. She also stated that she could not give me an e-mail address for you, without your permission – and that the office had no e-mail she could provide. I left my name and phone number with her, with a request that you call me. Also, my e-mail address, elena@judgewatch.org -- and the website information that had been contained in my March 23rd message to you, posted on the website, as follows...

Please call me, as soon as possible, so that I can update you as to what has been happening since March 23rd on the public corruption front, centered in Albany County – and to discuss how, as a candidate and, if elected, as Albany County DA, you will address conflicts of interest, involving, your D.A. salary and public officers such as Assemblyman Phil Steck, who on May 9th publicly endorsed you. Your promise, in response, was ‘to be the Albany County DA the taxpayers can count on to never self-deal their hard-earned tax dollars’ and to ‘prosecute all crimes...without political favor.’”

I also received no response to this May 28th message, other than an immediate [automated e-mail acknowledgment](#).

A few days ago, I discovered a campaign e-mail address for Mr. Kindlon on his [D.A. campaign facebook page](#). I am, therefore, cc'ing him on this e-mail, so that he can explain his failure to communicate with me with respect to the foregoing – whose substance, pertaining to D.A. Soares, is now embodied in my above-attached most recent correspondence to D.A. Soares:

- my July 17th ethics complaint to the Albany County Ethics Commission against D.A. Soares, to which D.A. Soares was cc'd;
- my July 17th coverletter to D.A. Soares, to which the Albany Ethics Commission was cc'd;
- my July 18th letter to New York's 62 D.A.s – D.A. Soares, among them – transmitted by my below July 18th e-mail 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”.

The July 18th letter presents New York's 62 D.A.s with two simple questions – and requests their answers by August 1st:

- (1) 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 raising judicial salaries;
- (2) 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.

Based on the July 18th letter, what would your answers be, if elected? And what, Mr. Kindlon, would your answers be?

Please let me hear from you both by August 1st so that, based on your answers, Albany county voters can be apprised as to whether another write-in campaign must be launched for a suitable D.A. candidate who will abide by his duty of enforcing New York's penal laws, without fear or favor, and who will recuse himself when compromised by self-interest and relationships.

I am available to answer questions.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgewatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 8:49 PM
To: 'president@daasny.org' <president@daasny.org>; 'mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov' <mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov>; 'david.soares@albanycountyny.gov' <david.soares@albanycountyny.gov>; 'ian.jones@alleganyco.com' <ian.jones@alleganyco.com>; 'clarkda@bronxda.nyc.gov' <clarkda@bronxda.nyc.gov>; 'paul.battisti@broomecounty.us' <paul.battisti@broomecounty.us>; 'LPRieman@cattco.org' <LPRieman@cattco.org>; 'bantonacci@cayugacounty.us' <bantonacci@cayugacounty.us>; 'schmidtj@chqgov.com' <schmidtj@chqgov.com>; 'wwetmore@chemungcountyny.gov' <wwetmore@chemungcountyny.gov>; 'mferrarese@co.chenango.ny.us' <mferrarese@co.chenango.ny.us>; 'andrew.wylie@clintoncountygov.com' <andrew.wylie@clintoncountygov.com>; 'districtattorney@columbiacountyny.gov' <districtattorney@columbiacountyny.gov>; 'pperfetti@cortland-co.org' <pperfetti@cortland-co.org>; 'shawn.smith@co.delaware.ny.us' <shawn.smith@co.delaware.ny.us>; 'aparisi@co.dutchessny.gov' <aparisi@co.dutchessny.gov>; 'Michael.Keane@erie.gov' <Michael.Keane@erie.gov>; 'Kristy.Sprague@essexcountyny.gov' <Kristy.Sprague@essexcountyny.gov>; 'elizabeth.crawford@franklincountyny.gov'

<elizabeth.crawford@franklincountyny.gov>; 'mpoulin@fultoncountyny.gov'
<mpoulin@fultoncountyny.gov>; 'kevin.finnell@co.genesee.ny.us' <kevin.finnell@co.genesee.ny.us>;
'jstanzione@discovergreene.com' <jstanzione@discovergreene.com>;
'mpurdue@hamiltoncountyny.gov' <mpurdue@hamiltoncountyny.gov>;
'jcarpenter@herkimercounty.org' <jcarpenter@herkimercounty.org>; 'krystinam@co.jefferson.ny.us'
<krystinam@co.jefferson.ny.us>; 'gonzalee@brooklynda.org' <gonzalee@brooklynda.org>;
'jefftompkins@lewiscounty.ny.gov' <jefftompkins@lewiscounty.ny.gov>;
'GMcCaffrey@co.livingston.ny.us' <GMcCaffrey@co.livingston.ny.us>;
'william.gabor@madisoncounty.ny.gov' <william.gabor@madisoncounty.ny.gov>;
'sdoorley@monroecounty.gov' <sdoorley@monroecounty.gov>; 'ldiamond@da.montgomery.ny.us'
<ldiamond@da.montgomery.ny.us>; 'Anne.donnely@nassauda.org' <Anne.donnely@nassauda.org>;
'bragga@dany.nyc.gov' <bragga@dany.nyc.gov>; 'brian.seaman@niagaracounty.com'
<brian.seaman@niagaracounty.com>; 'tcarville@ocgov.net' <tcarville@ocgov.net>;
'williamfitzpatrick@ongov.net' <williamfitzpatrick@ongov.net>; 'james.ritts@ontariocountyny.gov'
<james.ritts@ontariocountyny.gov>; 'dhoovler@orangecountygov.com'
<dhoovler@orangecountygov.com>; 'da@orleansny.com' <da@orleansny.com>;
'anthony.dimartino@oswegocounty.com' <anthony.dimartino@oswegocounty.com>;
'muehlj@otsegocounty.com' <muehlj@otsegocounty.com>; 'Robert.Tendy@putnamcountyny.gov'
<Robert.Tendy@putnamcountyny.gov>; 'katz@queensda.org' <katz@queensda.org>;
'mdonnely@rensko.com' <mdonnely@rensko.com>; 'mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov'
<mcmahonda@rcda.nyc.gov>; 'WalshT@rocklandda.org' <WalshT@rocklandda.org>;
'gpasqua@stlawco.org' <gpasqua@stlawco.org>; 'kheggen@saratogacountyny.gov'
<kheggen@saratogacountyny.gov>; 'Robert.carney@schenectadycounty.com'
<Robert.carney@schenectadycounty.com>; 'susan.mallery@co.schoharie.ny.us'
<susan.mallery@co.schoharie.ny.us>; 'jfazzary@co.schuyler.ny.us' <jfazzary@co.schuyler.ny.us>;
'jjnabinger@co.seneca.ny.us' <jjnabinger@co.seneca.ny.us>; 'Bbaker@steubencounty.NY.gov'
<Bbaker@steubencounty.NY.gov>; 'raymond.tierney@suffolkcountyny.gov'
<raymond.tierney@suffolkcountyny.gov>; 'brian.conaty@co.sullivanyny.us'
<brian.conaty@co.sullivanyny.us>; 'martink@tiogacountyny.gov' <martink@tiogacountyny.gov>;
'MVH@tompkins-co.org' <MVH@tompkins-co.org>; 'enne@co.ulster.ny.us' <enne@co.ulster.ny.us>;
'carusonej@warrencountyny.gov' <carusonej@warrencountyny.gov>;
'tjordan@washingtoncountyny.gov' <tjordan@washingtoncountyny.gov>; 'ccallanan@co.wayne.ny.us'
<ccallanan@co.wayne.ny.us>; 'mrocah@westchesterda.net' <mrocah@westchesterda.net>;
'vhemming@wyomingco.net' <vhemming@wyomingco.net>; 'tcasella@yatescounty.org'
<tcasella@yatescounty.org>

Cc: 'morgan.bitton@daasny.org' <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
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgwatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgwatch.org