

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 7:01 PM
To: 'jcampbell@nypublicradio.org'; 'jcampbell@wnyc.org'
Cc: 'jvielkind@wnyc.org'; 'jhan@wxxi.org'

Subject: **Your reporting on the state budget, its embedded appropriations for legislators & other state officer -- & the corruption, in office, of AG James, DA Bragg, etc.**

Attachments: [cja-feb-4-2025-testimony.pdf](#)

TO: [Jon Campbell/New York Capitol reporter - New York Public Radio/Gothamist](#)

As [Jimmy Vielkind and Jeongyoon Han are your colleagues at the Albany capitol bureau of NY Public Radio/WNYC/Gothamist](#), below are my welcoming e-mails to them, attaching my above written testimony for the Legislature's February 4th budget hearing on "local government officials/general government".

I have received no response from Mr. Vielkind and Ms. Han and now offer the same two-page written testimony to you. The [testimony, annexing CJA's February 3, 2025 Opposition Report to the November 14, 2024 Report of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation](#), is an explosive follow-up to your January 23rd [Gothamist](#) article "['Double dipping' NY lawmakers 'retire' to collect a pension and salary at the same time](#)", including because, as your article points out, one of those double dippers is J. Gary Pretlow, who "now chairs the Assembly's powerful Ways and Means Committee", in which capacity he also gets a \$34,000 stipend added to his \$142,000 salary.

On February 3, 2017, I testified, in person, before Assemblyman Pretlow about the unconstitutionality and larceny of the state budget and its embedded salary increases and, thereafter, testified, in his presence, at the November 30, 2018 hearing of the Committee on Legislative and Executive Compensation ([VIDEO](#), at 25mins/45secs). Here's my [February 7, 2017 e-mail to Assemblyman Pretlow](#), with its enclosed [February 6, 2017 letter to Assembly Speaker Heastie](#), to which he was cc'd, and my two separate December 6, 2018 e-mails to him, [here](#) and [here](#), enclosing my [December 6, 2018 letter to Assembly Speaker Heastie](#), to which Assemblyman Pretlow was also cc'd.

By the way, my most recent e-mail to now Ways and Means Committee Chair Pretlow was on [February 7th](#) entitled "Why is CJA's written testimony for the Legislature's Feb 4, 2025 budget hearing on 'local gov't officials/general government' NOT posted – & has it been furnished to ALL committee members?" I have received no response from Chair Pretlow or from any of the e-mail's other recipients and cc's – Finance Committee Chair Krueger, Ways and Means Committee Ranking Members Ra, Finance Committee Ranking Member O'Mara, and Legislative Leaders Heastie, Stewart-Cousins, Ortt and Barclay. Nor has my February 4th testimony been posted on the Assembly and Senate webpages for the hearing.

As time is of the essence, please let me hear from you by noon tomorrow, February 11th, as to whether you will be reporting on the foregoing and the below further angles that I suggested to Ms. Han and Mr. Vielkind pertaining to AG James, DA Bragg, the Brennan Center reports from 2004, 2006, and 2008, the lawsuits at the Court of Appeals, etc.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 6:06 PM
To: 'jhan@wxxi.org' <jhan@wxxi.org>

Subject: A gift to welcome you to your new job, as a Capitol News Bureau reporter for the NY Public News Network -- Explosive evidence, complete unreported, about the state budget, A.G. James, & D.A. Bragg

TO: [Jeongyoon Han/Capitol News Bureau Reporter – New York Public News Network](#)

Welcome to your new job.

I am director and co-founder of the [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#), a non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, based in White Plains.

CJA has a wealth of **unreported** primary-source, documentary evidence, bearing directly on stories you have been writing about, such as your yesterday's article "[U.S. Attorney General vows to investigate two of New York's top lawyers](#)" pertaining to President Trump and A.G. James and D.A. Bragg, and your prior article about the Brennan Center's release of its report, also yesterday, "[Report: State campaign finance match program combats megadonor influence](#)", including your final sentence: "The deadline to finalize the annual budget is April 1."

This **unreported** primary-source, documentary evidence builds on Brennan Center reports, from [2004](#), [2006](#), and [2008](#), describing New York's Legislature as the most dysfunctional in the entire nation, but not addressing the budget. It is reflected by my above-attached written testimony for the Legislature's February 4th budget hearing on "local government officials/general government", at which the [Brennan Center testified](#), and is about the budget and AG James. Yesterday morning, by the below e-mail, I sent it to your Capitol News Bureau/New York Public News Network colleague, Jimmy Vielkind, as a gift on the occasion of his new position at WNYC/Gothamist and the New York Public News Network, without response from him.

I now offer you the same gift, by this e-mail, which I am sending only to you, without cc's, with the expectation that after you review my written testimony, you will call me, so that I can answer your questions and fill you in on what's been going on, **unreported by the press, for decades**, enabling AG James and DA Bragg to be elected to, and remain in, the positions they hold. Call me, at your convenience, no matter how early or late, over the weekend, but no later than by Monday noon, as time is of the essence.

By the way, you are not listed on the [Legislative Correspondents Association roster](#), your articles and bio do not furnish any contact information for you, and only by calling WXXI, first 585-258-0253 and then 585-258-0200, was I able to obtain an e-mail for you. How then is the public able to contact you with stories for coverage?

Thank you.

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

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 9:40 AM

To: 'jvielkind@wnyc.org' <jvielkind@wnyc.org>; 'jimmy.vielkind@gmail.com' <jimmy.vielkind@gmail.com>

Subject: A gift to you, on the occasion of your new position at WNYC/Gothamist & the New York Public News Network, funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

TO: Jimmy Vielkind/Capitol Bureau-WNYC/Gothamist – New York Public News Network

How surprising to see that you have been hired by WNYC/Gothamist to a position “funded by a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting” – news that I learned about only yesterday, first from your [posted bio on WRVO](#), then from your January 6, 2025 substack article “[A new job for the new year](#)”, which then led me to WNYC’s January 6, 2025 press announcement: “[Jimmy Vielkind joins WNYC/Gothamist to Expand Albany and Statewide Coverage Ahead of 2026 Governor's Race](#)”, with its subtitle: “*New position, funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, is part of the New York Public News Network, a collaboration of 13 public radio newsrooms across the state*”.

That obviously explains why my below January 4, 2025 e-mail to the roster of Legislative Correspondents Association reporters, which was then still listing you as at the [Wall Street Journal](#), bounced back, twice, as being undeliverable to you.

As a gift to you, on the occasion of your being hired “as part of a Capitol bureau expansion that will provide statehouse reporting to 13 public media organizations across the state”, funded by federal taxpayers, above-attached is the written testimony I submitted two days ago to the Legislature for its February 4th budget hearing on “local government officials/general government”, highlighting CJA’s two lawsuits, now at the Court of Appeals, against Governor Hochul, the Legislature, Attorney General James, and Comptroller DiNapoli, suing them for corruption involving New York’s “OFF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RAILS”, larcenous state budget and pay raises, each defended by litigation fraud of Attorney General James and “thrown” by fraudulent decisions. I have not yet furnished it to the LCA roster or any other journalists.

Will you report on these two politically-explosive lawsuits, each brought, expressly, “on behalf of the People of the State of New York & the Public Interest”? And will you report on the two specific larcenies my testimony identifies in the FY2025-26 state budget:

- (1) \$34.6M or so for judicial pay raises, arising from the statutorily-violative, fraudulent, and unconstitutional December 4, 2023 Report of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation; and
- (2) an unknown amount for pay raises for Executive Law §169 state officers, arising from the statutorily-violative, fraudulent, and unconstitutional November 14, 2024 Report of that same commission?

As you are *already* fully familiar with *virtually all* that my testimony summarizes, other than pertaining to the November 14, 2024 Report, whose details are set forth by [CJA’s February 3, 2025 Opposition Report](#) annexed to my testimony, please e-mail me by 3 p.m. tomorrow, so that I may be guided accordingly.

Also, as I assume you and your WNYC/New York Public News Network colleagues will be reporting, in the near future, on the Court of Appeals’ upcoming decision in *Cuomo v. Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government* (COELIG), please also let me know if you will be reporting on my below January 4th e-mail about [CJA’s December 16, 2024 motion](#) therein for leave to file an *amicus curiae* brief to prevent fraud.

I look forward to speaking with you directly about the foregoing – and to assisting you to the fullest with your “enterprise and investigative journalism”. Please call me no matter how late tonight or early tomorrow morning.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2025 1:40 PM
To: 'jimmy.vielkind@wsj.com' <jimmy.vielkind@wsj.com>

Subject: HEADS UP! Behind the Scenes, at the Court of Appeals, in Cuomo v. COELIG, Scheduled for Oral Argument this Tues, Jan 7th

The below appears not to have been delivered to you, for reasons I do not understand.

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2025 8:52 AM
To: 'blee@alm.com' <blee@alm.com>; 'susan.arbetter@charter.com' <susan.arbetter@charter.com>; 'grace.ashford@nytimes.com' <grace.ashford@nytimes.com>; 'jbeeferman@politico.com' <jbeeferman@politico.com>; 'editor@nysfocus.com' <editor@nysfocus.com>; 'cbragg@nysfocus.com' <cbragg@nysfocus.com>; 'molly.burke@hearst.com' <molly.burke@hearst.com>; 'jcampbell@nypublicradio.org' <jcampbell@nypublicradio.org>; 'Dan.Clark@timesunion.com' <Dan.Clark@timesunion.com>; 'Keshia.clukey@newsday.com' <Keshia.clukey@newsday.com>; 'tconnolly514@gmail.com' <tconnolly514@gmail.com>; 'gwen@adironackexplorer.org' <gwen@adironackexplorer.org>; 'jdeline@news10.com' <jdeline@news10.com>; 'SDestra@wmht.com' <SDestra@wmht.com>; 'SDestra@wmht.org' <SDestra@wmht.org>; 'bianca@nysfocus.com' <bianca@nysfocus.com>; 'mfrench@politico.com' <mfrench@politico.com>; 'agault@wdt.net' <agault@wdt.net>; 'rgavin@buffnews.com' <rgavin@buffnews.com>; 'vgolden@nypost.com' <vgolden@nypost.com>; 'michael.gormley@newsday.com' <michael.gormley@newsday.com>; 'lynn.halliburton@statewatch.com' <lynn.halliburton@statewatch.com>; 'kevin@statewatch.com' <kevin@statewatch.com>; 'Kyle Hughes' <khughes@nysnys.com>; 'aizaguirre@ap.org' <aizaguirre@ap.org>; 'Ajefferson@cityandstateny.com' <Ajefferson@cityandstateny.com>; 'shaneking@statewatch.com' <shaneking@statewatch.com>; 'EKline@wmht.org' <EKline@wmht.org>; 'editor@cityandstateny.com' <editor@cityandstateny.com>; 'rlewis@cityandstateny.com' <rlewis@cityandstateny.com>; 'Kate.Lisa@charter.com' <Kate.Lisa@charter.com>; 'David.lombardo@wcnny.org' <David.lombardo@wcnny.org>; 'seamus.lyman@charter.com' <seamus.lyman@charter.com>; 'BLyons@TimesUnion.com' <BLyons@TimesUnion.com>; 'billmahoney@politico.com' <billmahoney@politico.com>; 'matthew.mirro@statewatch.com' <matthew.mirro@statewatch.com>; 'ben.oreskes@nytimes.com' <ben.oreskes@nytimes.com>; 'bphillip@nysenate.gov' <bphillip@nysenate.gov>; 'nreisman@politico.com' <nreisman@politico.com>; 'julia@nysfocus.com' <julia@nysfocus.com>; 'jay.root@nytimes.com' <jay.root@nytimes.com>; 'yancey.roy@newsday.com' <yancey.roy@newsday.com>; 'Maryfrancis.Stoute@charter.com' <Maryfrancis.Stoute@charter.com>; 'jimmy.vielkind@wsj.com' <jimmy.vielkind@wsj.com>; 'Peter.Wendler@wcnny.org' <Peter.Wendler@wcnny.org>; 'zwilliams@bloombergindustry.com' <zwilliams@bloombergindustry.com>; 'timothy.p.williams@charter.com' <timothy.p.williams@charter.com>

Subject: HEADS UP! Behind the Scenes, at the Court of Appeals, in Cuomo v. COELIG, Scheduled for Oral Argument this Tues, Jan 7th

TO: [Albany Legislative Correspondents Association Roster of Reporters](#)

[At 2 p.m. this Tuesday, Jan. 7th, the Court of Appeals is hearing oral argument](#) on the constitutionality of the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG), successfully challenged by former Governor Cuomo in his lawsuit against it, in Albany Supreme Court and at the Appellate Division, Third Department.

The non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#) has a great deal of direct, first-hand experience with COELIG and the facts and circumstances giving rise to it, as well as with what took place, in the *Cuomo v. COELIG* lawsuit, at the Appellate Division, Third Department.

On December 16th, CJA filed with the Court of Appeals a devastating [motion for leave to file an amicus curiae brief to prevent fraud on the Court](#) by COELIG, by Cuomo, and by the *amici* “good government” organizations/NYC Bar Association and for “appropriate action” against them, *to wit*, sanctions and disciplinary, if not criminal, referrals. The motion demonstrates that their briefs to the Court, identically to their briefs to the Appellate Division, are materially fraudulent, that the Appellate Division decision is a fraud, and that COELIG is not only unconstitutional, *by its enactment* through the budget and by fraud, but, *as applied*, being a “herculean hoax”, including its so-called “independent review committee” of 15 law school deans.

Cuomo and the “good government”/NYC Bar Association *amici* did NOT oppose the December 16th motion, at all – and COELIG’s only opposition, on the December 30th return date, was a single-sentence purporting that the requested “appropriate action” has “no basis...and should be denied”. Yesterday, [CJA filed a reply](#) as devastating as its December 16th motion.

For your convenience, everything is posted on [CJA’s webpage for Cuomo v. COELIG at the Court of Appeals](#).

I am available to answer your questions. Feel free to call me, no matter how early or late.

Thank you.

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