

**From:** Akash Mehta <akash@nysfocus.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 11:45 AM  
**To:** elena@judgewatch.org  
**Subject:** Albany isn't going to investigate itself

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**NEW YORK**

**FOCUS**

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Dear readers,

In the short time since we launched in 2020 with the scrappiest of budgets, New York Focus has consistently punched above its weight. We've spurred policy, shaped regulation, and driven national news cycles.

We're increasingly delivering on our founding goal: to throw open the doors of Albany's locked rooms, revealing how power works and helping transform New York's political culture from a secretive pay-to-play business for insiders to a genuinely participatory democracy.

We see it as part of that mission to keep all our reporting free; we don't do paywalls. That means that we rely on donations — and we need your support to keep going. We're hoping to raise \$10,000 for our spring membership campaign. **Will you help us reach our goal?**



Here's the kind of work your support will make possible:

- Our senior reporter Sam Mellins transformed the framework for understanding New York's top court in his **exposé revealing the conservative bloc** that controlled its decisions. That story and the

many others that followed led to the highest-profile battle over the court in New York history.

- Reporter Victoria Law reported **one of the deepest investigations ever published** on rape in New York prisons, prompting prison authorities to reopen an investigation into the sexual assault at the heart of the story.
- Our reporter Chris Gelardi reported a **groundbreaking series** revealing that the state prison system has flouted virtually every aspect of a landmark law curtailing the use of solitary confinement. His reporting led to oversight from lawmakers and a class action lawsuit.

**BECOME A NEW YORK FOCUS MEMBER**

We're just getting started. We hope you'll contribute at whatever level you can, and help us reveal how this state really works.

Thanks so much,

Akash Mehta  
Editor-in-chief  
New York Focus

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