

## Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [elena@judgewidth.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2011 1:45 PM  
**To:** 'erikriss@aol.com'; 'erik.kriss@nypost.com'  
**Subject:** OBJECTIONS RAISED: Follow-up to your August 27th article "'Raise' objections"  
**Attachments:** 11-8-11-executive-summary.pdf; 11-1-11-ltr-to-megna.pdf; 8-27-11-ny-post-kriss.pdf

Dear Erik,

Really good to speak with you.

Here's a story worthy of your talents – one which will enable you and The Post to lead the way with riveting, prize-winning coverage about the Commission on Judicial Compensation's brazen disregard of constitutional safeguards for securing judicial accountability and its outright theft from the public pocket of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars, covered up by such Post competitors as The New York Times, New York Law Journal, & Albany Times-Union.

Below is the November 14<sup>th</sup> e-mail to your colleagues in the Capital Press Room, entitled "Invitation: Today's Gotham Gazette: '*Who Judges the Judges?*'", which I was unable to send you because your e-mail address was not on the roster of the NYS Legislative Correspondents Association, posted on its website. The relevant link to the "Latest News" page of our website, [www.judgewidth.org](http://www.judgewidth.org), is part of that below e-mail. For your convenience, I am also attaching the 4-page Executive Summary to our October 27, 2011 Opposition Report to the Commission on Judicial Compensation's August 29, 2011 Final Report and our November 1, 2011 letter to NYS Budget Director Megna

As for NYC/metro connections for this story, consider Assembly Speaker Silver (64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District: Manhattan-Wall Street, Chinatown, etc) & Senate Majority Leader Skelos (9<sup>th</sup> Senate District: Rockville Centre, Lynbrook, Valley Stream, East Rockaway, Long Beach) – each up for re-election in 2012, as are each and every NYC/metro member of the State Senate and Assembly. Also, William Thompson, Jr. – former NYC Comptroller & would-be NYC Mayor, who was the Commission on Judicial Compensation's Chair.

The press has a VITAL role to play. Our democracy falls apart if it does not report on the records of our public officers, as we are unable to vote them OUT! [See "Conclusion" to CJA's October 27, 2011 Opposition Report (p. 37)].

I look forward to working with you on this powerful story – an appropriate follow-up & complement to your August 27<sup>th</sup> article "'*Raise*' objections" -- which identified that "Pay hikes for 1,300 judges will go into effect automatically unless the Legislature and Gov. Cuomo act to block them". Evident from our October 27<sup>th</sup> Opposition Report, indeed, from its Executive Summary, is that the Legislature and Governor MUST block the pay hikes – as well as take the other action we identify: repeal of the Commission statute, referring the Commissioners to criminal authorities, appointment of a special prosecutor, task force, &/or inspector general to investigate the systemic judicial corruption, involving the Commission on Judicial Conduct, that the Commission on Judicial

Compensation covered-up in recommending pay raises.

Certainly, over and beyond what I trust will be your first investigative step: ascertaining from Governor Cuomo [via Mylan Dinerstein, counsel], Assembly Speaker Silver, and Senate Majority Leader Skelos [via Diane Burman, counsel to Majority Conference] the status of their review of our Opposition Report, you should get comment from those quoted by your August 26<sup>th</sup> article: Budget Director Megna, Chief Judge Lippman, and NYS Bar Association President Doyle, each already provided with the Opposition Report.

Please don't hesitate to call me with questions, etc.

Thank you & Happy Thanksgiving

Elena  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2011 11:50 AM  
**To:** (erin.billups@ny1news.com); Adam Sichko (asichko@bizjournals.com); Andrew Hawkins (ahawkins@nycapitolnews.com); Betty Flood (EFMNEWS@aol.com); Bill Hammond (whammond@nydailynews.com); Brendan Scott (bscott@nypost.com); Cara Matthews (clmatthe@gannett.com); Casey Seiler (cseiler@timesunion.com); Chuck Custer (news@wgy.com); Elizabeth Benjamin (liz.benjamin@ynn.com); Fredric Dicker (fud31@aol.com); Glenn Blain (gblain@nydailynews.com); hakim@nytimes.com; Jacob Gershman (jacob.gershman@gmail.com); Jim Odato (jodato@timesunion.com); Jimmy Vielkind (jvielkind@timesunion.com); Joe Spector (jspector@gannett.com); Joel Stashenko (jstashenko@alm.com); Karen DeWitt (kdewitt@wxxi.org); Ken Lovett (klnynews@aol.com); Kyle Hughes (khughes@nysnys.com); Matt Ryan (mryan@wmht.org); Michael Gormley (mgormley@ap.org); Michael Virtanen (mvirtanen@ap.org); Rick Karlin (rkarlin@timesunion.com); Stephen Acunto Jr. (sacunto@cinn.com); Susan Arbetter (susan\_arbetter@wcn.org); Teri Weaver (tweaver@syracuse.com); Tom Precious (tprecious@buffnews.com); Yancey Roy (yancey.roy@newsday.com)  
**Cc:** 'David King'  
**Subject:** Invitation: Today's Gotham Gazette: "Who Judges the Judges?"

**TO: Capital Press Room: New York State Legislative Correspondents Association**

David King, State Government Editor for the Gotham Gazette, leads with an article today, "*Who Judges the Judges?*", which he features as "This Month's Story...". It is the first to provide a glimmer of reporting on:

- the aborted 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the Commission on Judicial Conduct; and
- CJA's October 27, 2011 Report on the judicial pay raise issue, delivered to Governor Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Skelos, Assembly Speaker Silver, & Chief Judge Lippman

We have posted David's article on the "Latest News" webpage of CJA's website – from which you can

easily access both the videos of the 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee hearings and CJA's October 27, 2011 Report. Here's the direct link: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/cja/latest-news.htm>

We look forward to providing you ALL possible assistance so that you can expand upon David's groundbreaking reporting of what is a MAJOR SCANDAL – propelling the long overdue, non-partisan, good-government reforms essential to safeguarding our constitution, democracy, and rule of law.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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