



CENTER FOR JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC. (CJA)

A national, nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization, working to protect the public interest in the integrity of our judicial selection and discipline processes and to depoliticize them so as to ensure that only the most qualified lawyers become, and remain, judges.

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THE PEOPLE FIGHT BACK!

***Groundbreaking Lawsuit by the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
to Stop NY Judicial Pay Raises – & Secure Judicial Accountability***

On Friday, March 30th, the non-partisan, non-profit Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), filed suit against New York's highest constitutional officers, challenging the pay raises for New York State judges that went into effect April 1, 2012, as unconstitutional, statutorily-violative, and fraudulent.

Among the contentions of the verified complaint is that it is unconstitutional to raise judicial salaries unless there are functioning mechanisms to discipline and remove judges who are not discharging their constitutional duty to render fair and impartial justice. It particularizes, with case file evidence, that existing appellate and supervisory mechanisms and the Commission on Judicial Conduct have been corrupted.

In further support, the verified complaint chronicles in detail the aborted 2009 Senate Judiciary Committee hearings at which a succession of witnesses testified about systemic corruption in New York's judiciary and supplied documentary evidence in substantiation. No investigation of their testimony or documents was ever undertaken, no findings were ever rendered, no committee report was ever issued.

The verified complaint asserts that the legislative and executive branches are colluding with the judiciary on the judicial pay raise issue so as to lay the groundwork for securing their own pay raises and particularizes facts culminating in a first cause of action entitled "Evisceration of the Separation of Powers: Collusion of the Three Government Branches against the People".

"Monies obtained through collusion of the three government branches, earmarked for judicial pay raises, should be deposited into a superfund for restitution to the victims of judicial misconduct, not given to those perpetrating the injustice."

Director, Elena Ruth Sassower



CENTER FOR JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

In addition to declaratory relief, the verified complaint seeks to have the monies that have been earmarked for the judicial pay raises deposited into a superfund for restitution to the victims of judicial misconduct.

An order to show cause to stay the judicial pay raise pending determination of the verified complaint is returnable on Monday, April 16th – the day before New Yorkers are required to pay the taxes that will be used to pay for the judicial pay raises.

Both the verified complaint and the order to show cause, filed in Supreme Court/Bronx County, are posted on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible via the top panel "Latest News". Direct link follows: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/cja/latest-news.htm> .

About CJA

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) is a non-partisan, nonprofit citizens' organization WORKING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST to improve the quality of the New York judiciary by removing political and personal interests from the judicial selection process and by ensuring that the process of disciplining and removing judges is effective and meaningful. CJA furthers these goals through education, oversight and documentation of abuses often occurring out of the public eye, networking with judicial activists and legal reform groups around the country to promote citizen involvement, concerted action, and protection for judicial "whistleblowers, tracking media coverage of issues of judicial selection and discipline, educating the media, providing expert testimony on abuses and best practices and initiating and supporting legal action in the public interest to advance the goal of a quality judiciary, free from bias and political influence.

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