

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewidth.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 4:09 PM
To: ns2333@columbia.edu; mak67@adcu.columbia.edu
Subject: [#1 of 5] -- Research Misconduct, Conflict-of-Interest, Ethics Complaint: "Media Mecca or News Desert?: Covering local news in New York City" (Jan. 7, 2020, Columbia Journalism Review, Tow Center Senior Research Fellow Sara Rafsky)
Attachments: 9-8-20-to-nyt.pdf; 7-21-20-email-nyt-weiser.pdf

TO: Columbia University

**ATT: Naomi Schrag, Vice President for Research, Training and Policy
Michael Klein, Director of Research Compliance**

Thank you for meeting with me, from 3 pm – 4 pm today, *via* zoom, and giving me the opportunity to summarize the below, assisted by the webpage I created on CJA's website, [here](#).

Pursuant to Columbia University's [Institutional Policy on Misconduct in Research](#), [Institutional Conflict of Interest in Research Policy](#), [University Policy on Conflicts of Interest](#), and Statement of Ethical Conduct and Administrative Code of Conduct, this is to initiate a research misconduct/conflict-of-interest/ethics complaint against [Tow Center for Digital Journalism Senior Research Fellow Sara Rafsky](#) for wilful and deliberate disregard of **primary-source, documentary EVIDENCE** establishing that her report "[Media Mecca or News Desert?: Covering local news in New York City](#)", published January 7, 2020 in the [Columbia Journalism Review](#), is materially false and misleading by its reliance on interviews of self-interested news personnel and for violating her professional responsibility to take corrective steps, as, for instance, by a follow-up report as to how those same news personnel reconcile such EVIDENCE with their interview statements. This complaint is also against Ms. Rafsky's superiors at Columbia Graduate School of Journalism who aided and abetted – if not encouraged – her misconduct. These are, in the first instance, [Columbia Journalism Review Editor-in-Chief/Publisher Kyle Pope and Managing Editor Betsy Morais](#), and, thereafter, [Tow Center Director and member of the Columbia Journalism Review's Board of Overseers Emily Bell](#) – each also duty-bound to have integrated this EVIDENCE into the [Journalism Crisis Project](#), which is a joint venture of the [Columbia Journalism Review](#) and Tow Center, announced on June 17, 2020 – and to have furnished it to other scholars for their scholarship, as well. Instead, all four ignored the EVIDENCE, as if it did not exist, and generated scholarship that was materially false and misleading by reason thereof, covering up the misfeasance of those with whom Columbia University and its "scholars" have personal and professional relationships and financial ties.

The facts pertaining to this research misconduct complaint are themselves established by **primary-source documentary EVIDENCE**: the succession of e-mails I sent to the complained-against parties – and the only two e-mails I received from them in response. These span from January 16, 2020 to November 19, 2020 – the last e-mail giving them notice that absent their response by November 24th, I would be "forced to file a complaint of research misconduct against them with Columbia University and other authorities."

Having received no response from them by November 24th or since, I now file this research misconduct complaint against Ms. Rafsky, Mr. Pope, Ms. Morais, and Ms. Bell – and against those others at Columbia University School of Journalism who, from October 28, 2020 onward, were also recipients of my e-mails and failed to "whistle-blow" to Columbia University authorities about the situation, *to wit*,

[Columbia Journalism Review Delacorte Fellow Lauren Harris](#) and [Tow Center Computational Research Fellow Priyanjana Bengani](#).

Below is a chain of the first seven e-mails, spanning from my first January 16, 2020 e-mail, at the bottom, sent to [Columbia Journalism Review's](#) generic e-mail address and bearing the subject line: "E-mail address requested for Sara Rafsky: 'Media Mecca or News Desert?: Covering local news in New York City'/Columbia Journalism Review (Jan 7, 2020)", culminating more than nine months later, on September 23, 2020, with the e-mail at the top of the chain, which is the ONLY e-mail I ever received from Ms. Rafsky. Suffice to here point out that Ms. Rafsky:

- (1) did not see fit to call me – as expressly requested by the September 21, 2020 e-mail I directly sent her, reflective that she did not want to engage in conversation that might require her to justify her report's deficient methodology and its results;
- (2) did not answer my straight-forward question therein: "Are you aware of my efforts to speak with you, since shortly after publication of your January 7, 2020 report '[Media Mecca or News Desert? Covering local news in New York City](#)' in the [Columbia Journalism Review](#)?", reflective that the answer would incriminate her and/or others;
- (3) transmogrified my proffer of "a goldmine of primary-source, documentary evidence germane to the subject about which she writes, to the integrity of her sources, and to the necessity of follow-up scholarship", to an "offer to share...insights on local news in New York City", reflective that she was seeking to evade her research and scholarship obligations; and
- (4) stated she would be "happy to take a look" at these purported "insights" if I sent them to her "via email", reflective that she was not committing herself to responding to same.

This chain also contains the ONLY e-mail I ever received from Mr. Pope, on January 27, 2020, stating "We have forwarded your note to Sara."

On September 24, 2020, I replied to Ms. Rafsky, furnishing an illustrative "first piece of 'primary-source, documentary evidence'" from which she could easily discern the untruthfulness of her most important New York City "local journalism" print and digital news sources – this being a "**TIP – TIME SENSITIVE LEAD**" that I had sent on September 7, 2020 to the philanthropically-funded digital non-profit [The City](#), entitled "Election Issue #1: What salary is to be paid the winners of NYC's 92 state legislative races? Is it \$110,000 or \$79,500? The answer upends all the legislative races -- & that's for starters" – which the next day I sent to publications that included [The New York Times](#), [Daily News](#), [City Limits](#), [Gotham Gazette](#), and [Pro Publica](#). My September 24, 2020 e-mail asked Ms. Rafsky – based on her January 7, 2020 report – what she would have expected their responses to have been – and, simultaneously, furnished this same "TIP – TIME SENSITIVE LEAD" to Mr. Pope for reporting by [Columbia Journalism Review](#). The e-mail also pointed out that "another fatal flaw" of Ms. Rafsky's report – in addition to its reliance on interviews of news personnel -- was that it had not identified having questioned them about conflicts of interests and their codes of professional responsibility -- and that they had, obviously, not alerted her to "what is a key, key issue in **any** true understanding of the 'news desert' problem and the **mirage** of 'local journalism' in New York City and elsewhere, whose flagrant disregard by news outlets,

journalism schools, and entities engaged in ‘scholarship’ and reporting about the press, has been utterly catastrophic to our democracy and an informed electorate capable of exercising a meaningful vote.”

I received no response from Ms. Rafsky or from the other cc’s – Mr. Pope, Ms. Bell, and Ms. Morais – and, a week later, on October 1, 2020, sent them a reminding e-mail. It bore the same title as my September 24, 2020 e-mail: “Building scholarship on ‘local news in New York City’ and ‘news deserts’ based on PRIMARY-SOURCE, DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE -- NOT interviews -- & pitching such scholarship & a NYC elections news story to CJR Editor/Publisher Kyle Pope”, adding only a prefatory capitalized word “AGAIN –”. It asked that they “identify, as immediately as possible, where in the five counties of New York City – and/or in the 57 other counties of New York State – I [could] find the ‘local journalism’ for [the] ‘TIP – TIME SENSITIVE LEAD...”, further asking “Or is it your professional judgment that it is not a MAJOR, MAJOR news story, as to which **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.**” I also received no response to this e-mail.

I will separately forward these two unresponded-to e-mails, as well as a chain of five e-mails, spanning from October 26, 2020 to November 19, 2020 – all from me – to which Ms. Rafsky, Mr. Pope, Ms. Bell, and Ms. Morais were cc’s – plus an October 28, 2020 e-mail that is not part of the chain, to which they were also cc’d. These furnish the context of their misconduct in ignoring what the **primary-source, documentary EVIDENCE** before them proved and which their silence further conceded: that New York City – and the other 57 counties of New York State – are not only a “news desert” when it comes to a press discharging its core watchdog function of reporting on government corruption and the larceny of taxpayer monies, but that New York’s press, for years – and in the 2020 election-cycle, where 213 state legislative seats and 15 district attorney offices were on the ballot – engaged in a charade of “fake news”, fraudulent, election-rigging journalism. These six e-mails are, as follows:

- my October 26, 2020 e-mail, addressed to the conservative digital news chain Metric Media, furnishing particulars as to CJA’s “gold-mine of primary source, documentary EVIDENCE, spanning 30 years”, identifying that I had empirically tested the “local journalism” of all 62 New York counties by using Ms. Rafsky’s report and the [“Expanding News Desert” research of Knight Chair Penelope Muse Abernathy of the University of North Carolina’s Hussman School of Journalism](#) to which it referred, and highlighting that Ms. Rafsky’s wilful failure to respond, to which Mr. Pope, Ms. Morais, and Ms. Bell were complicit, was notwithstanding my three e-mails to her had furnished a “first piece of primary source, documentary evidence” from which to answer the questions her report had stated were “worth examining”, *to wit*, whether New York City was “both a media mecca and a collection of localized, topical news deserts” or were “those potential gaps issue-based and city-wide?”;
- my October 28, 2020 e-mail, also addressed to Metric Media, which stated:

“Meantime, I am awaiting response from CJR Editor-in-Chief/Publisher Pope and Managing Editor Morais and from Tow Center Director Bell and its Senior Research Fellow Rafsky to my October 26th e-mail to you to which they were cc’d, explicitly, so that they could address EVIDENCE of the ‘fake news’, election-rigging, fraudulent journalism of the supposed trustworthy, agenda-free ‘local news’ of New York’s 62 counties, including ‘non-profits’ purporting to be ‘nonpartisan’ and ‘independent’ and which, on that basis, are philanthropically-endowed and publicly-supported. As a further reminder, I am cc’ing the four of

them on this e-mail – and take the opportunity to lay down a challenge to CJR – itself a nonprofit, receiving foundation funding – to list and link such ‘local news’ as it purports gave New York’s electorate, in the 62 counties, information from which to meaningfully vote on candidates to fill the 213 state legislative seats and 15 D.A. offices on the ballots. This will PROVE the sham, rigged nature of what little ‘local news’ there was – and I am cc’ing [CJR Delacorte Fellow Lauren] Harris and Tow Computational Research Fellow Bengani so that they may assist in such truth-establishing, essential project.”

- my October 29, 2020 e-mail addressed to University of North Carolina Knight Chair Abernathy entitled “Building Scholarship on the ‘news desert’ problem with EVIDENCE, DISPOSITIVE OF ACTUAL PERFORMANCE of ‘for profit’, supposedly credible & legacy press -- & of the new press that is ‘non-profit’ and philanthropically or publicly supported”, identifying that CJA’s archive of primary-source, documentary EVIDENCE “not only goes back 30 years, to when the size and number of newspapers was robust and their advertising-‘business model’ was unimpaired by the internet, but builds on EVIDENCE, also primary-source and documentary, spanning more than a decade before that.”
- my November 5, 2020 e-mail to Ms. Abernathy – bearing the same title as the October 29, 2020 e-mail – preceded by the capitalized word “AGAIN –”, which after asking her assessment of the “first piece of ‘primary-source, documentary evidence’ establishing the ‘news desert’ situation that exists in New York’ – *to wit*, my September 7, 2020 ‘**TIP – TIME SENSITIVE LEAD...**’, stated:

“As I have also received no response from any of the cc’s to this same ‘first piece of ‘primary-source, documentary evidence’”, I am again cc’ing them as a reminder. Where, in New York City and/or New York State, is the ‘local journalism’ to investigate and report on what is now **Post-Election Issue #1, to wit, ‘What salary is to be paid the winners of [NYS’ 213] state legislative races? Is it \$110,000 - or \$79,500?’**. Likewise, to investigate and report on what is **Election Issue #1 in the 2021 race for New York City mayor** inasmuch as lead mayoral candidate New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer was a member of the 4-member Committee on Legislative and Executive Compensation, criminally liable for its pay raise fraud.”

- my November 12, 2020 e-mail to Susan Leath, Director of the Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media at the University of North Carolina’s Hussman School of Journalism, seeking “adult supervision”/oversight of the Center’s sole faculty member Knight Chair Abernathy for ignoring, without response, CJA’s October 29, 2020 and November 5, 2020 e-mails “furnishing her with primary-source, documentary EVIDENCE empirically testing her scholarship – and requesting her assistance in furnishing such EVIDENCE to fellow scholars so that philanthropic and other funders of ‘local journalism’ are not misled as to how purportedly trustworthy, reputable news sources are actually functioning”;
- my November 19, 2020 e-mail to Director Leath, inquiring as to her failure to respond to my November 12, 2020 e-mail, stating that absent response by November 24, 2020, I would file a

research misconduct complaint against her and Ms. Abernathy with the University of North Carolina and other authorities – and further adding:

“Finally, I take this opportunity to give notice to the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism recipients of this e-mail that unless I receive a response from them by November 24th to my [] succession of prior e-mails to them – to which I have received no response – I will also be forced to file a complaint of research misconduct against them with Columbia University and other authorities.”

Having received no response from Director Leath or Ms. Abernathy, a complaint will be filed against them with the University of North Carolina, fairly simultaneously with this complaint, to which it is inter-related.

I conclude with three further notes:

- (1) On September 25, 2020, the day after my September 24th e-mail to Ms. Rafsky, [Columbia Journalism Review](#) published an article by her entitled "[Deconstructing the News Desert](#)". It began, as follows:

“While the term ‘news desert’ effectively conveys the extent of the local news crisis, there is no widespread agreement among journalists and researchers—let alone funders, policymakers, and the public—about how to define and measure one. When dealing with a [crisis](#) as urgent as the one currently facing local news, methodological questions might seem beyond the point. But any solutions to the problem of news deserts will be predicated on how we understand them.

This question was at the forefront of a recent [webinar](#) I moderated for the Tow Center with some of the top researchers in the growing field of news ecosystems studies. During the webinar—the first in a three-part virtual series on local news—the four panelists discussed the theoretical frameworks and methodologies that guide their work...”

The referred-to [webinar](#) was held on September 9, 2020 – and the four panelists, which included Ms. Abernathy, struggled with methodologies – all recognizing that examining the content of news and “local journalism” was essential to assessing their quality. Ms. Abernathy, the first panelist to speak, showed a first slide featuring her just published 2020 report “[News Deserts and Ghost Newspapers: Will Local News Survive?](#)” – along with the words “Quality vs. Quantity”. Although she stated that her 2020 report had involved both “quality and quantity measures”, the “Methodology” section at the back of her report presented the situation more accurately:

“...our research is concerned with identifying local newspapers that provide public-service journalism...Does the paper, for example, cover local government meetings, such as school boards and county commissioner meetings? Does the paper provide coverage on any of the

eight topics identified by the Federal Communications Commission as being 'critical information needs'? This report assesses the quantity, but not the quality of news generated by local news outlets, a step that would require in-depth analysis of the content. We recommend this as an additional research step to anyone seeking to determine the health of the local news ecosystem in a specific region. (at p. 114: "Building And Refining the newspaper Database")

"To determine definitively whether a large daily is fulfilling its civic journalism role of informing a community on important issues, much more research – including in-depth analysis of published content – is needed. Having raised the issue, we leave that to other researchers to determine whether an individual paper is a 'ghost.' (at p. 115: "Defining 'News Deserts' and 'Ghost Newspapers'").

This repeated fairly identical language from the "Methodology" section of [Ms. Abernathy's 2018 report](#) (at pp. 95-96).

As evident from Ms. Rafsky's prefatory "Methodology" section of her January 7, 2020 report, she did not examine content of the New York City news outlets whose personnel she had interviewed – and review of her report reveals only one instance of her doing so. My e-mails to her reinforced the necessity of content analysis, since, obviously, if my "first piece of primary-source, documentary evidence" – the "TIP – TIME SENSITIVE LEAD – Election Issue #1" – could not garner **any** coverage from them, it raised a question as to the content of their political and election coverage of the performance, in office, of New York City's 92 state legislators, most running for re-election, and of its 5 elected district attorneys. My October 28th e-mail laid down a content-based challenge that [Columbia Journalism Review](#) "list and link such 'local news' as it purports gave New York's electorate, in the 62 counties, information from which to meaningfully vote on candidates to fill the 213 state legislative seats and 15 D.A. offices on the ballots" -- and Ms. Rafsky could have easily asked her New York City press interviewees to supply such lists and links pertaining to their local/statewide coverage of the state legislative and D.A. races. That she – and [Columbia Journalism Review](#) – did not do so reflect their knowledge that it would establish what I said it would: "the sham, rigged nature of what little 'local news' there was".

- (2) Ms. Rafsky's January 7, 2020 report did not identify ANY partisan or ideological leanings of the news outlets she interviewed – giving the impression that they adhere to norms of objectivity, impartiality, fairness, accuracy. Content-analysis would have revealed that most are liberal/progressive, some blatantly so, including the so-called mainstream [New York Times](#), as well as the non-profits, which are required to be non-partisan to qualify for tax-exempt status. Tellingly, while Ms. Rafsky was working on her Tow-supported report, three other Tow fellows ([Anthony Nadler](#), [A.J. Bauer](#), [Magda Konieczna](#)) were working on a report entitled "[Conservative Newswork -- A Report of the Values and Practices of Online Journalists on the Right](#)", also based on interviews, which [Columbia Journalism Review](#) would publish, on March 31, 2020, followed by a [virtual launch on April 16, 2020](#). The Tow Center does not appear to have sponsored scholarship on "the values and practices of...journalists on the left", be they digital, print, or broadcast – and, as proven from the mountain of primary-source, documentary

evidence I proffered, without response, it would have disclosed the most flagrant violations of basic journalistic values, beginning with truth.

- (3) Mr. Pope wilfully failed to respond to my below January 27, 2020 and September 8, 2020 e-mails asking confirmation that Gabriel Snyder was still Columbia Journalism Review's public editor for The New York Times and inquiring as to the best e-mail contact for him. Was this because he knew that [CJA had sued The Times in a groundbreaking public interest lawsuit seeking judicial recognition of a cause of action for journalistic fraud](#), as to which [I had sought scholarship from Columbia University in 2006 and 2007](#). And when he discovered, from my September 24th e-mail, that I had sent The Times the "first piece of 'primary-source, documentary evidence" that I was proffering to establish the untruthfulness of Ms. Rafsky's sources and the "news desert" that is New York City – *to wit*, the above-attached unresponded-to September 8th e-mail to The Times, posted on CJA's indicated [webpage](#) that included the above-attached unresponded-to July 21, 2020 e-mail to The Times entitled "CORRECTION & INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM REQUIRED...", rebutting Mr. Snyder's June 22, 2020 CJR column "[...the Times corrects factual errors. What about larger controversies?](#)", did he not believe such warranted Mr. Snyder's attention? How about after reading my October 26th e-mail, with its further link to [CJA's 2020 election webpage of correspondence to reporters of the Legislative Correspondents Association](#), from which The Times' "fake news", fraudulent, corruption-abetting, election-rigging journalism was further obvious. What protocol did he employ to ensure that his judgment was not impacted by conflicts of interest? How about the other complained-against Columbia University scholars? Suffice to note that in the March 31, 2020 "Conservative Newswork" report, conservative journalist and editor-in-chief of The Daily Caller Geoffrey Ingersoll is quoted as saying "I have a lot of respect for the *Times*. I think they are obviously the best paper in the world" – with that quote featured on a slide at the April 16, 2020 video launch.

I look forward to furnishing you with further details as to the foregoing – all substantiated by **primary-source, documentary EVIDENCE** – and answering your questions to the fullest.

Thank you.

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

**Chain of e-mails from January 16, 2020 (at the bottom) to September 23, 2020 (at the top) --
in substantiation of Research Misconduct/Conflict-of-Interest/Ethics Complaint**

From: Sara G. Rafsky <sr3617@columbia.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 1:32 PM
To: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Cc: kylepope01@gmail.com; editors@cjr.org

Subject: Re: Your report "Media Mecca or News Desert? Covering local news in New York City"(Jan 7, 2020 Columbia Journalism Review) -- & the necessity of follow-up scholarship based on primary-source, documentary evidence

Dear Elena,

Thank you very much for your interest in my report and offer to share your insights on local news in New York City. Please feel free to share them or a summary via email and I'd be happy to take a look. Thanks again.

Best,
Sara

--

Sara Rafsky
Senior Research Fellow
Tow Center for Digital Journalism
Columbia Graduate School of Journalism

On Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 5:13 PM Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org> wrote:

TO: Sara Rafsky – Senior Research Fellow/Tow Center for Digital Journalism-Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

I have just discovered your e-mail address on your [bio webpage](#) – as part of the [Tow Center staff](#).

Are you aware of my efforts to speak with you, since shortly after publication of your January 7, 2020 report "[Media Mecca or News Desert? Covering local news in New York City](#)" in the [Columbia Journalism Review](#)? Below is the relevant chain of e-mail, beginning January 16, 2020, to editors@cjr.org, in which I stated "I have a goldmine of primary-source, documentary evidence germane to the subject about which she writes, to the integrity of her sources, and to the necessity of follow-up scholarship."

Please call me, as soon as possible. Time is of the essence.

Thank you.

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

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgwatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 11:11 AM
To: 'kylepope01@gmail.com' <kylepope01@gmail.com>; 'editors@cjr.org' <editors@cjr.org>

Subject: CJR's public editor for the NYT, Gabriel Snyder -- & Sara Rafsky

TO: Kyle Pope, Editor in Chief and Publisher/Columbia Journalism Review

I have no record of any response from you to my below January 27, 2020 e-mail, inquiring about CJR's public editor for The New York Times. Did you respond? If not, please do so now.

Also, I never heard from Sara Rafsky. Please send me her contact information so that I may communicate with her directly. Time is of the essence.

Thank you.

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

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgwatch.org>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 8:48 AM
To: 'Kyle Pope' <kylepope01@gmail.com>

Subject: Thank you & CJR's public editor for the NYT, Gabriel Snyder --

TO: Kyle Pope, Editor in Chief and Publisher/Columbia Journalism Review

Thank you for your response. I have much to contribute to critical scholarship on the state of journalism and, in particular, to fatal, self-inflicted wounds – and remedies.

I was most heartened to read your excellent June 11, 2019 article "*Meet your new public editors*": https://www.cjr.org/public_editor/meet-your-new-public-editors.php -- and commend you on the much-needed initiative. Is Gabriel Snyder still CJR's public editor for The New York Times – and, if so, what is the best contact for him? Will the generic publiceditors@cjr.org best reach him – or is a more personalized e-mail also available? On the internet I have found: gs@thewire.com.

Please advise.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

www.judgewatch.org

914-421-1200

From: Kyle Pope <kylepope01@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 6:27 AM

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

Subject: Re: AGAIN: E-mail address requested for Sara Rafsky: "Media Mecca or News Desert?: Covering local news in New York City"/Columbia Journalism Review (Jan 7, 2020)

Elena,

We have forwarded your note to Sara. And apologies about the voice mail. We'll get it cleared up.

Kyle Pope

CJR

On Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 10:20 AM Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org> wrote:

TO: Columbia Journalism Review

I have received no response to my below January 16th e-mail -- & upon calling your phone number, 212-854-1881, minutes ago, I got the same voice mail message as when I called previously, which disconnects without allowing for the recording of a message from callers. Please advise.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

www.judgewatch.org

914-421-1200

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

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 5:00 PM

To: 'editors@cj.org' <editors@cj.org>

Subject: E-mail address requested for Sara Rafsky: "Media Mecca or News Desert?: Covering local news in New York City"/Columbia Journalism Review (Jan 7, 2020)

TO: Columbia Journalism Review

Sara Rafsky's report "[*Media Mecca or News Desert?: Covering local news in New York City*](#)" in the January 7, 2020 [Columbia Journalism Review](#) has a "twitter" link to "follow the author", but no e-mail address for contacting her.

What is Ms. Rafsky's e-mail address? Please send it to me – and/or forward her this e-mail and my request that she call me, as soon as possible. I have a goldmine of primary-source, documentary evidence germane to the subject about which she writes, to the integrity of her sources, and to the necessity of follow-up scholarship.

By the way, are you aware that there is no voice mail feature for your phone number, 212-854-1881, listed on your "Contact" page: https://www.cjr.org/about_us/contact.php. It simply disconnects after reciting the message: "I'm sorry no one is available to take your call. Thank you for calling. Goodbye."

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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914-421-1200