

## Center for Judicial Accountability

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2013 3:59 PM  
**To:** 'Duggan, Erin'  
**Subject:** Securing Introduction & Passage of the Public Trust Act -- Upcoming Letter & Information Request  
**Attachments:** 2011-legislative-priorities.pdf

Dear Erin,

As discussed, our nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization will be drafting a letter to all the state's 62 district attorneys, apprising them of what Assembly Speaker Silver and Majority Coalition Leaders Skelos and Klein did in response to their June 11<sup>th</sup> letter urging passage of the Public Trust Act (Gov. Program Bill #3). As detailed in the correspondence that I brought to your attention from our website, <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/cja/latest-news.htm> -- our August 21<sup>st</sup> letter to Governor Cuomo, our August 13<sup>th</sup> letter to Senator Latimer & Assemblyman Buchwald, & our July 19<sup>th</sup> corruption complaint to Albany County District Attorney Soares – not only did these legislative leaders NOT themselves see fit to sponsor it so that it might be introduced into the Legislature, but they withheld it from other legislators. The result is that the legislative process was aborted: the Public Trust Act had NO sponsors and was never introduced.

We will be calling upon the 62 district attorneys to each write another letter, this time addressed to their own legislators whose districts lie within their own counties, requesting that they each sponsor the Public Trust Act or, at very least, that they ensure that, upon its being introduced, it is accorded legitimate legislative process: discussion and debate in committee, public hearings, mark-ups for amendments, votes, a substantive committee report – then on to the Senate and Assembly floor, for debate, amendments, votes – and reconciliation between disparate Senate and Assembly bills by a conference committee.

In meantime, I would appreciate if you could furnish me with information as to the origin of the Public Trust Act. At the Governor's April 9, 2013 press conference, at which he announced the Public Trust Act, he was asked the question: "When did your staff begin working on these proposals and why didn't you pursue this as part of the ethics law [] of 2011?" His response was "These proposals have been discussed for some period of time and the district attorneys' office just completed a task force, I believe relatively recently, and came up with many of these proposals, which we have been reviewing." To what "task force" was the Governor referring, when was its report rendered, and to whom?

From the internet, I found that back in 2011 the New York State Law Enforcement Council unveiled a legislative agenda that included "holding public officials accountable to a high standard of ethical conduct". Attached is some of the information I have secured from the internet. To which committees of the Legislature were such proposals submitted and when? What happened to them? Were there previous proposals of this nature, when and what was their fate?

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**From:** Duggan, Erin [<mailto:duggane@dany.nyc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2013 1:34 PM  
**To:** 'elena@judgewatch.org'  
**Subject:** Contact

Hi, this is my contact info.

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